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A N  
A C C O U N T  
O F T H E  
I S L A N D S  
O F  
O R K N E Y.

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By *JAMES WALLACE*, M. D.  
And Fellow of the Royal Society.

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*To which is Added, an E S S A Y con-  
cerning the Thule of the Ancients.*

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L O N D O N,  
Printed for *Jacob Tonson* within *Gray's-  
Inn-Gate*, next *Gray's-Inn-Lane*, 1700.

AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
ISLANDS  
OR  
KNEEY.



By JAMES WALLACE, M.D.  
And Fellow of the Royal Society.

To which is added an ESSAY  
concerning the Trade of the West Indies.

LONDON:  
Printed for Jacob Tonson within Gray's  
Inn-Gate, next C. & J. St. John's, 1700.



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To the Right Honourable,

CHARLES

Earl of *Dorset* and

*Middlesex*, Knight of  
the most Noble Order  
of the Garter, Ld. Lieu-  
tenant of the County of  
*Sussex*, and one of His  
Majesty's most Honour-  
able Privy Council.

My LORD,

THE way to make these  
Bleak Northern  
Islands more Tem-  
perate, will be your Lordships  
A 2 taking

## Dedication.

*taking 'em into your Indulgence and Protection: They are not so distant as to be unacquainted with your Character, for the Latitude that is so must not be inhabitable.*

*Every one that wants 'em feels the Effects of your Lordships good Actions, but no Body sees you do 'em. Your care and concern for mankind is your own, but your Fortune is your Friends. Your Wit is the only thing you are not enough Diffusive off, and what others covet of  
you*

## Dedication.

*you most, you your self value least.*

*In the Ardour to declare the perfections of your Lordships Pen, I forget to conceal the Imperfections of my own, which are most pardonable when I most profess to be,*

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most Obedient, and

most Humble Servant,

*James Wallace.*

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The Author not being in Town these following errors are desir'd to be corrected.

**P**Age 15 line 9 *locks*, read *locks*. p. 19 l. 25 *chama-*  
*ustus* r. *chamaecistus*. p. 25 l. 1 *latifolia* r. *latifolia*.  
p. 28 l. 26 *Cardamini* r. *Cardamine*. p. 33 l. 8 *surge* r.  
*spurge*. p. 37 l. 6 *Seols* r. *Seals*. p. 46 l. 19 *Foists* r. *Toists*.  
p. 47 l. 18 *Greehead* r. *Greenhead*. p. 51 l. 13 *eight feet* r.  
*eighteen*. p. 64 l. 19 *tho we have also sure account* r. *tho we*  
*have no sure account*. p. 66 l. 28 *Cumfrey* r. *Comfrey*. p.  
67 l. 13 *They use Arby, the Caryophyllus marinus, Thrift or*  
*much as they call it.* r. *They use the Caryophyllus marinus*  
*Thrift or Arby as they call it.* p. 71 l. 8. *lecspond* r. *leif-*  
*pound*. p. 72 l. 2 and l. 10. *wrack* r. *sea-weed*. p. 73 l. 11  
*Foists* r. *Toists*. p. 73 l. 20 *fowl* r. *fowls*. p. 74 l. 17. *per-*  
*haps some hundered of Fathoms* r. *perhaps some fifty or sixty*  
*Fathoms*. p. 101 l. 12 *Patreek* r. *Patrick*. p. 101 l. 26 *who*  
*r. whom*. p. 107 l. 6 *Twisio* r. *Twisco*. p. 107 l. 9 *Kelders*  
*r. Keldees*. p. 118 l. 20 *accompany* r. *carry*. p. 120 l. 13  
*Sheris* r. *Sheriff*. p. 123 l. 13 *patefacciones* r. *patefacci-*  
*ores*. p. 133 l. 30 *regnire* r. *regni*. p. 136 l. 11 *digne* r.  
*digni*. p. 145 l. 23 *near three thousand and five hun-*  
*dered pounds* r. *near three thousand pounds Sterling*. p. 153  
l. 1. *In* r. *Tu*. p. 153 l. 25 *Caledonio* r. *Cate-*  
*donios*. p. 155 l. 5 *imperva* r. *impervia*. p. 161 l. 22 *maria*  
*r. mari*. p. 162 l. 15 *Agricola* r. *Agricolæ*. p. 166 l. 20 *Ro-*  
*mani* r. *Romans*. p. 173 l. 4 *means* r. *meant*. l. 5 *had* r. *has*  
p. 173 l. 21 *where the country of the Pights was, add of*  
*which the North east part was out Thule*.





5 10 15  
English Miles

The Arrow marked thus → show  
the setting of the Tyde of Flood.



This Map of  
THE ISLANDS OF  
ORKNEY,  
is Humbly Dedicatid  
To D<sup>r</sup> HUTTON the Kings  
first Physician by Ia. Wallace.

## C H A P. I.

*The several Names by which Orkney is call'd. The Longitude and Latitude of this Country. An account of a Stone generated in the Air. How this Country is bounded. Some odd Phenomena about the Ebbing and Flowing of the Sea. The number of the Islands; and a short Account of each of them, with their different Harbours. The chief Products of this Country.*

**T**HIS Country in our English Language is call'd *Orkney*; by the Latins, both Ancient and Modern, it is call'd *Orcades*.

*Pomponius Mela* writes it with an aspiration, *Orchades*. What reason there is for the Name is not condescended upon, but it's probable the Latin Name may be from *Orcas*, which *Ptolemy* makes to be a Promontory of *Cathnes* over-against this Country, or from some

B. 1. 1. 1. Colony



## 2      *A Description of the*

Colony of the *Picts*, who first Planted this Country, and from some Similitude with the Name whereby they call'd themselves, might be so call'd by the *Romans*. As for the English name *Orkney*, it may be derived from some Pictish Prince, as *Erick* or *Orkenwald*, or some other who has been famous in the first Plantation; or might have got the name from some remarkable Title which the first Planters the *Pights* took to themselves; for *Picts* or *Pights* (as *Verstegan* says) in the Teutonick Tongue signifies Fighters; and *Orkney* may come from *Ear*, which signifies Honour, and *Kyn*, which signifies an Off-spring, as if the name were intended to shew, That they were an Off-spring or Generation of Honour.

This Country lies in the Northern temperate Zone and thirteenth Climate; the Longitude being 22 Degrees and 11 Minutes, and Latitude 59 Degrees and 2 Minutes, the Compass varying eight Degrees; so that the length of the longest Day is eighteen Hours and some odd Minutes; yet notwithstanding that this Country is so far remov'd to the North, the Air is temperate and wholsome, agreeing well with



## *Islands of Orkney.* 3

with those Constitutions that can endure a little Cold. At Midnight it is so clear for a great part of *June*, that one may read a Letter in his Chamber; yet it cannot be true what *Bleau* reports, That from the Hill of *Hoy* a Man may see the Sun at Midnight; for it cannot be the true Body of the Sun that is seen, but the Image of it refracted through some watry Cloud about the Horizon; seeing it must be as far depressed under our Horizon in *June*, as it is elevated above it in *December*, which is by many Degrees; for from that Hill the Sun is to be seen in the shortest Day in *December* above five Hours.

The Air and Clouds here, by the operation of the Sun, do sometimes generate several things; as some Years since, some Fishermen Fishing half a League from Land, over-against *Copinsba*, in a fair Day, there fell down from the Air a Stone about the bigness of a Foot-ball, which fell in the middle of the Boat and sprung a Leake, to the great danger of the Lives of the Men that were in it, which could be no other than some Substance generated in the Clouds. The Stone was like condensed or pe-

#### 4      *A Description of the*

treſied Clay, and was a long time in the cuſtody of Captain *Andrew Dick*, at that time Steward of this Country ; and Captain *Dick*, who is yet alive, told me he gave it to the late Earl of *Glencairn*.

Here the Winters are generally more ſubject to Rain than Snow ; nor does the Froſt and Snow continue ſo long here as in other parts of *Scotland*, but the Wind in the mean time will often blow very boiſterouſly, and it Rains ſometimes not by drops but by ſpouts of Water, as if whole Clouds fell down at once. In the Year 1680, in the Month of *June*, after great Thunder, there fell flakes of Ice near a foot thick.

This Country is wholly ſurrounded with the Sea, having *Pightland-Firth* on the South, the *Deucaledonian* Ocean on the Weſt, the Sea that divides it from *Zetland* on the North, and the German Sea on the Eaſt. *Zetland* ſtands North-Eaſt and by Eaſt from *Orkney*, and from the Start of *Sanda* in *Orkney* to *Swinburg* Head the moſt Southerly Point in *Zetland* is about eighteen leagues, where there is nothing but Sea all the way,

## *Islands of Orkney.* §

way, save *Fair Isle*, which lies within eight Leagues of *Swinburg-Head*.

*Pightland-Firth*, which divides this Country from *Cathnes*, is in breadth from *Duncansbay* in *Cathnes* to the nearest point of *South-Ronalsba* in *Orkney* about twelve Miles, in it are a great many different Tides, reckon'd to the number of twenty four, which run with such an impetuous force, that a Ship under sail is no more able to make way against the Tide, than if it were hinder'd by a *Remora*, which I conceive is the reason why some have said they have found the *Remora* in these Seas.

In this Firth, about two Miles from the Coast of *Cathnes*, lies *Stroma*, a little pleasant Island, but because of its vicinity to *Cathnes*, and its being still under the Jurisdiction of the Lords of that Country, it is not counted as one of the Isles of *Orkney*. On the North-side of this Isle is a part of *Pightland-Firth*, call'd the *Swelchie* of *Stroma*, and at the West-end of the Isle, betwixt it and *Mey* in *Cathnes*, there is another part of the Firth, call'd the *Merry Men* of *Mey*, both which are very dangerous to Seamen.

The Sea ebbs and flows here as in other places, yet there are some Phænomena, the reason of which cannot so easily be found out ; as in the Isle of *Sanda*, it flows two hours sooner on the West-side than it does on the East-side ; and in North *Faira* (which lies betwixt *Eda* and *Westra*) the Sea ebbs nine hours and flows but three : And at *Hammones* in *Sanda*, both ebb and flood run one way, except at the beginning of a quick Stream, when for two or three hours the flood runs South.

The Sea here is very turbulent in a Storm, and uneasy even to those on Land, especially in those places of the Country that lie expos'd to *Pightland-Firth*, and the Western Ocean, for when the Storm beats that way, the Sea dashes with such violence against the Rocks, that a great deal of the Sea is carry'd (in some places near a quarter of a mile) on the Land, and falls like a great shower of Rain on the Ground, which is very oft prejudicial to their Corn at certain Seasons.



The Tides also are very swift and violent, by reason of the multitude of the Isles and narrowness of the Passage; for, when all the rest of the Sea is smooth, these Tides carry their Waves and billows high, and run with such violence that they cause a contrary motion in the Sea adjoining to the Land, which they call *Easter-birth* or *Wester-birth*, according to its course; yet notwithstanding of the great rapidity of these Tides and Births, the Inhabitants, daily almost, travel from Isle to Isle about their several affairs in their little Cockboats or Yoals, as they call them.

Whatever the Ancients have written of the number of the Islands of *Orkney*, it's certain there are but twenty six, at present inhabited, viz. *South-Ronalsba*, *Swinna*, *Hoy* and *Waes*, *Burra*, *Lambholm*, *Flotta*, *Faira*, *Cava*, *Gramsey*, *Pomona* or *Mainland*, *Copinsba*, *Shapinsba*, *Damsey*, *Inhallo*, *Stronsa*, *Papa-Stronsa*, *Sanda*, *North-Ronalsba*, *Eda*, *Rousa*, *Wyre*, *Gairsa*, *Eglesba*, *North-Faira*, *Westra*, *Papa-Westra*. The rest of the Islands are call'd *Holms*, and are only used for Pasture; all of them being separated from one another by some narrow

B 4      Streights.

Streights. Most of these Islands names end in *a* or *ey*, which in the Teutonick signifieth Water, to shew that these Isles are pieces of Land surrounded with Water.

These Islands are of different Natures, some Sandy, some Marsh, some abounding in Heath and Moss, and some that have none, some of them Mountainous and some Plain. Of these some are call'd the South-Isles, and others the North-Isles, and that as they stand to the South or North of the greatest Island, call'd the *Mainland*.

*South-Ronalsha* is the Southermost of these Islands, five Miles long, fertile in Corn, and abounding with People. To the South-East lie the *Pightland Skerries*, dangerous to Seamen; but to the North is *St. Margarets Hope*, a very safe Harbour for Ships, which has no difficulty in coming to it, save a Rock in the middle of the Sound, betwixt this Island and *Burra*, call'd *Lippa*. From *Burwick*, in this Isle, is the usual Ferry to *Duncansbay* in *Cathnes*.

A little separated from this, to the South-West, lies *Swinna*, a little Isle, and only considerable for a part of *Pight-*  
*land-*

*land-Firth* lying a little to the West of it, call'd the Wells of *Swinna*, which are two Whirlpools in the Sea (occasion'd, as is thought, by some *Hiat* that is in the Earth below) that run about with such violence, that if any Boat or Ship come within their reach they will whirl it about and about till it be swallow'd up and drown'd. They are only dangerous in a great Calm; for if there be any Wind, and the Boat under Sail, there is no danger to go over them. If a Boat happen to come near them in a Calm, by the force of the Tide driving that way, the Boats-men, for their preservation throw a Barrel or an Oar, or any bulky thing that comes next to hand, into the Wells, and when it is swallow'd up the Sea remains smooth for a time for any Boat to pass over.

Beyond this, and to the West of *South-Ronalsba*, lies *Waes* and *Hoy* (thought to be the *Dumna* of *Pliny*) which are but one Isle, about twelve Miles in length, full of high Mountains, and but thinly inhabited, unless in *Waes*, where the Ground is very pleasant and fertile. From *Snelfetter* in *Waes* is the other

other Ferry from this Country to *Ham*, in *Catbnes*. Here are several good Harbours, as *Kirk-hope*, *North-hope*, *Ore-hope*, and others, but not now much frequented, tho' *North-hope* be one of the best Harbours in this Country, if not in the whole World, and most proper for those that design a Fishing Trade.

To the North of *South-Ronalsha* lies *Burra*, a pleasant little Isle, fruitful in Corns and abounding in Rabbits. Betwixt *Burra* and the Mainland is *Lambholm*, and to the West, towards *Hoy-mouth*, lies *Flotta*, *Faira*, *Cava*, *Gramsey*, all of them fruitful and pleasant Islands, tho' they be not large.

Next to these is the Mainland, call'd by the Ancients *Pomona* or *Pomonia*, about twenty four Miles in length, and well inhabited. About the middle of this Island, to the North, stands *Kirk-mall*, the only Town in all this Country. There are in the Mainland four excellent Harbours for Ships, one at *Kirk-mall*, both large and safe, without any danger by Shoals or blind Rocks as they come to it, unless they come from the West by *Inhallo* and *Gairsa*: Another



nother Harbour is at *Deirsound*, which is a great Bay, and a very safe Road for Ships, having good anchoring ground, and capable of sheltering the greatest Navies. The third is at *Grahamshall*, toward the East-side of this Isle, where there is a convenient Road; but the Ship that sails to it from the East, would do well to keep betwixt *Lambholm* and the *Mainland*, for the other way betwixt *Lambholm* and *Burra* (which appears to them to be only open) is very shallow and dangerous, even for small Ships. The fourth is at *Kairston*, a small Village, at the West-end of the *Mainland*, where there is a very safe and commodious Harbour, well fenc'd against all Winds by two small *Holms* that stand at the entry.

To the East of the *Mainland* lies *Copinsha*, a little Isle, but very conspicuous to Seamen, as is that *Holm* to the North-East of it, call'd the Horse of *Copinsha*.

To the North of the *Mainland*, lie the North-Isles, the first of which is *Shapinsha*, about five or six Miles in length, and hath a very safe Harbour for Ships at *Elwick*.

Of an equal bigness to that toward the South-East lies *Stronsa*, where there is two very good Harbours; one at *Lingafound*, fenc'd with *Lingaholm*, the other at *Strynie*, fenc'd with a little pleasant Isle to the North of it, call'd *Pa-pa-Stronsa*.

Beyond these, toward the North, at some distance, lies *Sanda*, about twelve Miles long, but very narrow, well inhabited; it hath two Roads for Ships, one at *Kitletoft*, guarded by a little Holm, call'd the Holm of *Elsnes*, the other at *Otterswick*, guarded by the most Northern-Island in all this Country, call'd *North-Ronalsba*, which is a little fruitful Isle, but both it and *Sanda* have no Moss Ground, but are obliged to bring their Peits and Turfs (which is the only Fuel they have thorough this whole Country) a great way off, from the next adjacent Island, *Eda*.

This *Eda* lyeth to the South-East of *Sanda*, thought to be the *Ocetis* of *Ptolemy*, near five Miles in length, full of Moss and Hills, but thinly inhabited, unless it be about the skirts of it; it has

## *Islands of Orkney.* 13

has a safe Road to the North, call'd *Calf-sound*.

Three Miles to the West of *Kirkwall*, at the bottom of a large Bay, lies a little Island, call'd *Damsey*, with a Holm near it as large as it self.

To the North North-West lies *Rou-sa*, about six Miles long, but very hilly and ill inhabited. Betwixt it and the *Mainland* lies *Inhallo*, and towards *Kirkwall* lies *Wyre* and *Gairsa*, small but profitable Islands.

North from *Kirkwall*, at eight Miles distance, is *Eglesba*, near three Miles in length, very pleasant and fertile, having a safe Road for Ships betwixt it and *Wyre*. In this Isle there is a little handsome Church, where, it is said, that Saint *Magnus*, the Patron of this Country, lies Bury'd.

To the North of *Eglesba* is *Westra*, seven Miles long, pleasant, fertile and well inhabited. There is in it a convenient Harbour for Ships, at *Piriwa*. At the East of it lies *Faira*, call'd for distinction, *Faira by North*; and to the North and by East, is *Papa-Westra*, a pleasant Isle, three Miles in length, famous in this Country for Saint *Fredwell's* Chapel

14      *A Description of the*

Chapel and Lake, of which many ridiculous things are reported by the Vulgar.

All these Islands are indifferently fruitful, well stor'd with Fields of Corn and Herds of Cattle, and abound with Rabbits, and the greatest plenty of Muir-fowl and Plover that there is any where, but have no Hares or Partridges.

The chief products of this Country, and which are Exported yearly by the Merchant, are, Butter, Tallow, Hides, Barley, Malt, Oatmeal, Fish, Salted Beef, Pork, Rabbit-skins, Otter-skins, white Salt, Stuffs, Stockings, Wool, Hams, Writing-Pens, Downs, Feathers, &c.

A South-East and North-West Moon causeth high Water throughout all this Country.



## C H A P. II.

*Of the Plants growing naturally in Orkney. Of those Beans call'd the Molucca Beans thrown in there. A Description of a strange Fish taken in Sanda. An Account of their Land and Sea-shells. Of their Mines. Of some exotick Fowls driven in there, and some other effects of violent Storms. Of their Lakes and Locks.*

I Did not find this Country so well stor'd with Plants as I expected; as for instance, I found none of the *Malva* kind, nor several other Plants that I thought might have agreed well enough with this Country; but such as I did find, I thought an account of them might not be unacceptable, tho' I am far from pretending this to be so very exact as it should have been; these being the Names of those only I have by me.

*Acetosa*

## 16 *A Description of the*

- Acetosa pratensis* B. P. common Sorrel.  
*Acetosa arvensis Lanceolata* B. P. Sheeps Sorrel.  
*Adiantum album* Tab. *Ruta muraria* B. P. white Maiden-hair.  
*Adiantum nigrum* Off. I. B. black Maiden-hair.  
*Adiantum aureum majus* Ger. golden Maiden-hair.  
*Alchimilla vulgaris* B. P. Ladies Mantle.  
*Alchimilla minime montana* Percepier *Anglorum* Ger. Parsly break-stone.  
*Alliaria* B. P. Sauce alone, or Jack-by-the-Hedge.  
*Alsine media* B. P. common Chickweed.  
*Alsine arvensis hirsuta magno flore* I. B. Mouse-ear Chickweed.  
*Alsine plantaginis folio* B. P. Plantain-leav'd Chickweed.  
*Alsine sperula dicta major* B. P. Spurrey.  
*Alsine minor multicaulis* B. P. fine Chickweed.  
*Alsine palustris portulacæ aquaticæ similis* J. Ray, small water Chickweed.  
*Alsine Hederule folio* B. P. Ivy-leav'd Chickweed.  
*Alsine veronicæ foliis flosculis cauli adhaerentibus* B. P. speedwell Chickweed.  
*Ambrosia*

## Islands of Orkney.

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*Ambrosia campestris repens*, Swines cresses.

*Anagallis flore Phæniceo* B. P. Male pimpernell.

*Anagallis aquatica major folio oblongo* B. P. the greater long-leav'd Brook-lime.

*Anagallis aquatica minor folio subrotundo* B. P. common Brook-lime or Water-pimpernell.

*Androsæmum Mathioli* Park. *Ascyrum* sive *Hypericum glabrum bifolium non perforatum* B. P. Mathiolus his Tutsan or elegant St. John's wort not perforate.

*Angelica Sylvestris* B. P. wild Angelica.

*Angelica Sylvestris minor sive erratica* B. P. Goutweed or Ashweed.

*Anthyllis maritima* B. P. Sea-pimpernell.

*Aparine vulgaris* B. P. common Goose-grafs.

*Argentina* Ger. Argentine or Silverweed.

*Artemisia vulgaris* J. B. common Mugwort.

*Arundo vulgaris* B. P. common Reed.

*Asperula* Ger. common white-flower'd Woodroof.

*Asphodelus minimus luteus palustris Acori folio* Lob. Hist. Oxon. Ballard Asphodel.

# 18      *A Description of the*

*Atriplex Sylvestris angusto & folio oblongo* B. P. narrow-leav'd wild Arrach.

*Atriplex marina nostras* J. Ray, English Sea-Arrach.

*Auricula muris pulchra flore albo* J. B. Mouse-ear with a white Flower.

*Auricula muris pulchra, flore albo, folio tenuissimo* J. B. fair-flower'd Mouse-ear with cut leaves.

*Barba Capra floribus compactis* B. P. Meadow-Sweet or Queen of the Meadow.

*Bardana major sive Lappa* J. B. Burdock.

*Bellis major* J. B. the greater wild white Daisie.

*Bellis Sylv. minor* B. P. common small wild Daisie.

*Buglossum Sylvestre minus* B. P. wild or corn Bugloss.

*Buglossum Sylvestre minus caulibus procumbentibus* B. P. small wild Bugloss.

*Bursa Pastoris* J. B. Shepherds purse.

*Bursa Pastoris minor oculis oblongis* B. P. *Paronychia vulgaris* Ger. Nailwort or whitlow Grass.

*Calamintha vulgaris arvensis verticulata* B. P. Water Calamint.

*Caltha Palustris* J. B. small marsh Marigold.



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*Campanula pratensis rotundifolia vulgaris*  
B. P. the lesser round leav'd Bell-  
flower.

*Campanula pratensis flore conglomerato* B.P.  
little Throatwort or Canterbury Bell's.

*Carduus vulgarissimus viarum* Ger. com-  
mon-way Thistle.

*Carduus nutans* J. B. Thistle with a bend-  
ing head.

*Carduus lanceatus* B. P. the Spear-thistle.

*Carduus Polyacanthus primus* Ger. Thistle  
upon Thistle.

*Carduus Polyacanthus secundus* Lob. waisted  
Thistle with small leaves.

*Caryophyllata vulgaris* B. P. Avens.

*Caryophyllus pratensis laciniato flore simplici*  
B. P. wild Williams or Cuckoe-flow-  
ers.

*Caryophyllus minimus muscosus nostras* Park.  
Chickweed-breakstone.

*Caryophyllus montanus minor* B. P. Thrift  
or Sea Gilliflower or Arby.

*Cherephyllum Sylvestre* B. P. common  
wild Chervile.

*Chamaeustus flore luteo* B. P. Dwarf Cistus  
or little Sun-flower.

*Chamedrys Sylvestris* Ger. wild German-  
der.

20      *A Description of the*

*Chamamelum inodorum* B. P. Mayweed  
or Dogs Chamomel.

*Chamamelum inodorum flore pleno*, double-  
flower'd Mayweed.

*Cheledonium minus* Ger. lesser Celandine.

*Chrysanthemum Segetum* Ger. Corn Mari-  
gold.

*Cicuta major* B. P. common Hemlock.

*Cochlearia folio sinuato* B. P. common Sea-  
Scurvy-grass.

*Consolida media pratensis* B. P. common  
Bugle.

*Convolvulus minor arvensis* B. P. small  
Bindweed.

*Coronopus Sylvestris hirsutior* B. P. Buck-  
horn Plantain.

*Cruciata vulgaris* B. P. Crosswort.

*Cyanus minor segetum* B. P. common blew-  
bottle or Sun-flower.

*Cynaglossum majus vulgare* B. P. common  
Hounds-tongue.

*Daucus nostras*, wild Carrot or Birds-  
nest.

*Dens leonis* B. P. Dandelyon.

*Digitalis purpurea folio aspero* B. P. purple  
Fox-gloves.

*Echium marinum* B. P. Sea-bugloss.

*Echium scorpioides arvense* B. P. Mouse-ear  
Scorpion-grass.

*Echium*

- Echium Scorpoides palustre* B. P. water  
Scorpion-grass.
- Equisetum arvense longioribus setis* B. P.  
common Horse tail.
- Equisetum palustre longioribus setis* B. P.  
the greater Marsh Horse-tail.
- Equisetum palustre brevioribus setis poly-*  
*spermon* B. P. Female Horse-tail.
- Equisetum fetidum sub aqua repens* B. P.  
stinking-water Horse-tail.
- Equisetum nudum* Ger. naked Horse-tail.
- Erica baccifera procumbens nigra* B. P. Ber-  
ry bearing Heath.
- Erica vulgaris glabra* B. P. common Heath  
or Heather.
- Erica humilis cortice cineritio Arbuti flore*  
B. P. fine leav'd Heath.
- Erica ex rubro nigricans Scoparia* B. P.  
Low-Dutch-Heath or Broom-Heath.
- Eruca Sylvestris minor luteo parvoq; flore*  
J. B. small water Rocket.
- Erysimum vulgare* B. P. Hedge Mustard.
- Erysimo Similis hirsuta non laciniata alba*  
B. P. Hairy-hedge Mustard with un-  
cut leaves.
- Eupatorium aquaticum folio integro* Park.  
water Agrimony with undivided  
leaves.
- Euphrasia* J. B. Eyebright.

22 *A Description of the*

*Euphrasia pratensis rubra* B. P. Eyebright  
Cow-wheat.

*Filix ramosa major pinnulis obtusis non  
dentatis* B. P. common Brakes or female  
Fern.

*Filix non ramosa dentata* B. P. male  
Fern.

*Fumaria officinarum* B. P. Fumitory.

*Gallium album* J. B. white Ladies Bed-  
straw.

*Gallium luteum* B. P. yellow Ladies Bed-  
straw.

*Gallium sive Molugo montana minor* Gallio  
albo similis J. Ray. small Mountain  
Bastard Madder.

*Gentianella autumnalis centauri minoris  
foliis* Park. Dwarf autumnal Gentian.

*Geranium Batrochoides folio Aconiti* B. P.  
the lesser Crowfoot Crainsbill.

*Geranium Cicutæ folio inodorum* B. P. un-  
savory Crainsbill.

*Geranium Columbinum tenuius laciniatum*  
B. P. Doves-foot with uncut leaves.

*Geranium lucidum saxatile* B. P. shining  
rock Crainsbill.

*Geranium Robertianum primum* B. P.  
Herb Robert.

*Glaux Maritima* B. P. Sea-Milkwort.

- Gnaphalium montanum flore rotundiore*  
B. P. Mountain Cudweed or Cats-foot.
- Gnaphalium medium* B. P. middle or black headed Cudweed.
- Gramen Caninum Arvense* B. P. Dog-grafs.
- Gramen Cristatum* J. B. smooth crested grafs.
- Gramen Avenaceum panicula flavescente locustis parvis* J. Ray. Oat-grafs with a yellow pannicle.
- Gramen aquaticum genicalatum spicatum*  
B. P. spiked flote Grafs or water Grafs.
- Gramen Asperum* J. B. rough Grafs.
- Gramen avenaceum dumetorum spica simplici* J. Ray. Single-spiked-hedge Oat-grafs.
- Gramen Cyperoides majus angustifolium*  
Park. the greater narrow-leav'd Cyperus Grafs.
- Gramen exile duriusculum in muris & aridis proveniens* J. Ray. small hard Grafs.
- Gramen palustre echinatum* J. B. Hedge-hog-grafs.
- Gramen pratense paniculatum majus* B. P. the greater Meadow Grafs.



## 24      *A Description of the*

*Gramen pratense paniculatum minus* B. P.  
the lesser Meadow Grass.

*Gramen pratense paniculatum molle* B. P.  
soft tufted Meadow Grass.

*Gramen parvum praeox spica laxa canescente*, J. Ray. Vernal-grass with a soft loose Spike.

*Gramen secalinum* Ger. Rie-grass.

*Gramen Sparteum spicatum foliis mucronatis vel spica secalina* B. P. Sea Matweed or Bent.

*Gramen Tomentosum* Ger. Cotton-grass.

*Gramen Tremulum* J. B. Quaking-grass.

*Gramen Typhynum majus* Ger. the greatest Cats-tail-grass.

*Hieracium minus folio subrotundo* B. P.  
small Swines fuccory.

*Hieracium dentis leonis folio obtuso majus* B. P. Long-rooted Hawk-weed.

*Hieracium Chondrilla folio radice succisa majus* B. P. yellow Devils-bit.

*Horminum pratense foliis serratis* B. P.  
common wild-clary.

*Hyoscyamus niger vulgaris* B. P. Black-henbane.

*Hypericum vulgare* B. P. common St. John's-wort.

*Hypericum Ascyrum dictum caule quadrangulo* J. B. common St. Peter's-wort.

*Facea*

*Jacea nigra pratensis latifolia* B. P. Black  
knap-weed.

*Jacobæa vulgaris* J. B. common St.  
James's-wort.

*Imperatoria affinis maritima umbellifera*  
*scotica Sutherlandi*. Scot's sea Master-  
wort.

I don't know why some chuse rather to call this an *Apium*, others a *Seseli*, and some a *Ligusticum*; I shall describe the Plant, and take liberty to do it in Latin, since it runs best that way, and so any may judge whether it has more the Character of an *Apium* or *Imperatoria*. *Folia allata sunt ex tribus segmentis amplis subrotundis, late virentibus, palmaribus, tripartitis & in ambitu incisus componuntur. Caulis ad cubitum assurgit, striatus, cavus, geniculis nonnullis interceptus, in quibus folia adsunt inferioribus longe minora. Flores in umbellam planam & latam disponuntur, rosacei, pentapetali, candidi, cum calice in duo semina abeunte striata, compressa, & ala foliacea tenuiq; cincta.* There is no Plant more common by the Sea-side on the Rocks, especially in *Waes* and *Hoy*, than this; but 'tis very frequent in most other places of this Country.

*Iris*

## 26 *A Description of the*

*Iris palustris lutea sive Acorus Adulterinus* J.B. yellow water Flagg or Flower-de-luce.

*Juncus acutus panicula sparsa* B. P. common hard Rush.

*Juncus laevis panicula sparsa major* B. P. common Rush.

*Juncus maximus & scirpus major* B. P. Bull Rush.

*Juncus aquaticus capitulis equiseti major* B. P. club Rush.

*Juniperus vulgaris* B. P. the Juniper Bush.

*Kali spinosum cochleatum* B. P. prickly Glaswort.

*Lamium album* B. P. white dead Nettle or Archangel.

*Lamium rubrum* B. P. red dead Nettle or Archangel.

*Lapathum vulgare folio obtuso* J.B. round leav'd Wild Dock.

*Lapathum folio acuto* B. P. sharp-pointed Dock.

*Lapathum folio acuto crispo* B. P. sharp-pointed Dock with curled leaves.

*Lapathum unctuosum sive Bonus Henricus* J. B. common English Mercury.

*Latuca Sylvestris costa spinosa* B. P. cut-leav'd wild Latice.

*Lens*

*Lens palustris* J. B. Duck Meat.

*Lichen sive hepatica terrestris* B. P. common ground Liverwort.

*Lichen cinereus terrestris* J. Ray. Ash-colour'd-ground Liverwort.

*Linaria lutea vulgaris* J. B. common Toad-flax.

*Linum pratense flosculis exiguis* B. P. Dwarf wild flax.

*Lolium album* Ger. Darnel.

*Lonchitis aspera* B. P. great bastard Spleenwort.

*Lotus sive Melilotus pentaphyllos minor glabra* B. P. Birds-foot trefoil.

*Lunaria minor* Ger. small Moonwort.

*Lychnis Sylvestris alba simplex* B. P. the white Campion.

*Lychnis segetum major* B. P. Cockle.

*Lychnis Sylvestris quæ Behen album vulgo* B. P. Spatling Poppy.

*Lychnis Maritima repens* B. P. English Sea Campion.

*Lychnis Sylvestris viscosa rubra angustifolia* B. P. German Catchflea with white Flowers.

*Lysimachia Siliquosa glabra major* B. P. the great smooth leav'd loose Strife.

*Lysimachia Siliquosa glabra minor* B. P. the lesser or smooth leav'd loose Strife.

*Lysi-*

## 28      *A Description of the*

*Lysimachia Siliquosa hirsuta parvo flore*  
B. P. hairy-codded willow Flower.

*Marubium nigrum fatidum* B. P. black  
Horehound.

*Melampyrum luteum* common Cow-  
Wheat.

*Mentha rotundifolia palustris sive aquatica*  
B. P. Water Mint.

*Millefolium vulgare* B. P. Yarrow or Mil-  
lefoil.

*Millefolium aquaticum ranunculi flore &*  
*capitulo* Park. Crowfoot Water-Mil-  
foil.

*Muscus terrestris clavatus* B. P. Club-  
mofs.

*Muscus clavatus foliis cupressi* B. P. Cy-  
press-mofs or Heath-mofs.

*Muscus pixiodis terrestris* B. P. Cup or  
Chalice-mofs.

*Myrrhis Sylvestris seminibus asperis* B. P.  
small Hemlock Chervil.

*Myrtillus*, Whortle bush or Whorts.

*Nasturtium pratense magno flore* B. P. La-  
dies Smock or Cuckoe Flowers.

*Nasturtium pratense magno flore sive Car-*  
*damini flore albo*, Hist. Oxon. Ladies  
Smock with white Flowers.

*Nasturtium aquaticum* B. P. common Wa-  
ter-cresses.

*Nastur-*



*Nasturtium Sylvestre tenuissime divisum*  
B. P. Flixweed.

*Nymphaea major alba* B. P. the great white  
water Lily.

*Oenanthe Apii folio succo viroso Morisoni*,  
Hemlock Dropwort.

*Ononis spinis carens purpurea* B. P. Purple  
Rest-Harrow.

*Ononis non spinosa flore albo*, white flower'd  
Rest-Harrow without prickles.

*Ophrys bifolia* B. P. two blade.

*Orchys mas foliis maculatis* B. P. the male  
Fools Stones.

*Orchys femina* B. P. the female Fools  
Stones.

*Panax Coloni* B. P. Clowns All-heal.

*Papaver erraticum majus* B. P. Corn  
Poppy.

*Papaver corniculatum luteum* B. P. yellow-  
flower'd Horn-Poppy.

*Pedicularis pratensis lutea* B. P. yellow rat-  
tle or Cocks-comb.

*Pedicularis pratensis purpurea* B. P. red  
rattle Grass.

*Pedicularis pratensis rubra elatior* J. Ray:  
great red rattle or Louse-wort.

*Persicaria mitis maculosa & non maculosa*  
B. P. dead or spotted Arsmart.

# 30      *A Description of the*

*Persicaria urens* sive *Hydropiper* B. P. hot  
Arsmart.

*Petasites major* B. P. common Butterbur.

*Pimpinella Saxifraga major umbella candi-  
da* B. P. great Burnet Saxifrage.

*Pimpinella Saxifraga minor* B. P. small  
burnet Saxifrage.

*Plantago latifolia sinuata* B. P. great Plan-  
tain.

*Plantago angustifolia major* B. P. Ragwort  
or lesser Plantain.

*Plantago aquatica latifolia* B. P. Water-  
plantain.

*Polygala vulgaris* B. P. Blew Milkwort.

*Polygonum latifolium* B. P. common Knot-  
grafs.

*Polypodium vulgare* B. P. common Polypody

*Potamogeton rotundifolium* B. P. round  
leav'd Pondweed.

*Potamogeton salicis folio* B. P. narrow-  
leav'd Pondweed.

*Prunella vulgaris* B. P. Self-heal.

*Ptarmica*, Sneezewort.

*Ranunculus pratensis repens hirsutus* B. P.  
common Crowfoot.

*Ranunculus pratensis erectus acris* B. P.  
upright Meadow Crowfoot.

*Ranunculus palustris Apii folio levis* B. P.  
round leav'd marsh Crowfoot.

*Ranunculus longifolius palustris major* B. P.  
the great Spearwort.      *Ranun-*

*Islands of Orkney.* 31

*Ranunculus palustris serratus* B. P. dented  
Spearwort.

*Ranunculus aquaticus folio rotundo & capillaceo* B. P. water Crowfoot with  
various leaves.

*Ranunculus aquaticus Cotyledonis folio* B. P.  
marsh Pennywort.

*Raphanus rusticus* B. P. Horse-radish.

*Rapistrum flore luteo* B. P. wild Mustard.

*Ros solis folio rotundo* B. P. Sun-dew.

*Rosa Sylvestris vulgaris* B. P. the common  
wild brier bush.

*Salix pumila repens* Ger. small creeping  
Willow.

*Sanicula officinarum* B. P. common Sani-  
cle.

*Sanicula montana flore Calcaris donato* B. P.  
Butterwort.

*Saxifraga rotundifolia alba* B. P. common  
white Saxifrage.

*Saxifraga rotundifolia aurea* B. P. Golden  
Saxifrage.

*Saxifraga Anglica facie seseli pratensis* Park.  
Meadow Saxifrage.

*Scabiosa pratensis hirsuta quæ officinarum*  
B. P. common Scabious.

*Scandix semine rostrato sive pecten Veneris*  
B. P. Venus comb or Shepherds-Nee-  
dle.

*Scordium*

## 32 A Description of the

*Scordium alterum* sive *Salvia agrestis* B. P.  
Wood Sage.

*Scrophularia nodosa fœtida* B. P. common  
Figwort.

*Scrophularia aquatica major* B. P. Water  
Betony or Figwort.

*Sedum parvum acre flore luteo* J. B. Stone  
crop or Wall-pepper.

*Sedum Tridactylites tectorum* B. P. *parony-*  
*chia folio rutaceo* Ger. Rue Whitlow  
Grass.

*Senecio minor vulgaris* B. P. common  
Groundsell.

*Serpillum vulgare minus* B. P. wild  
Thyme.

*Sideritis alsines trissaginis folio* B. P. I-  
ronwort with Germander Chickweed  
leaves.

*Sium angustifolium majus* B. P. Water-  
Parsnip.

*Sium minimum foliis ferulaceis* Hort. Reg.  
Blessen. *minimum* Jo. Ray. the least  
Water-parsnip.

*Sonchus levis laciniatus latifolius* B. P.  
smooth Sow-thistle.

*Sonchus asper laciniatus & non laciniatus*  
B. P. prickly Sow-thistle.

*Soncho affinis Lampsana Domestica* B. P.  
Nipplewort or Balagan.

*Sparganium non ramosum* B. P. Bur-reed.  
Sphon-

# Islands of Orkney.

33

- Sphondylium vulgare* B. P. Cow-parshnip.  
*Succisa sive morsus Diaboli* J. B. Purple-  
 flower'd Devils Bit.  
*Telephium vulgare* B. P. common Or-  
 pine.  
*Thalictrum minus* B. P. the lesser Mea-  
 dow Rue.  
*Tithymallus Helioscopius* B. P. Sun surge.  
*Tormentilla Sylvestris* B. P. Tormentil.  
*Tragopogon pratense luteum* B. P. yellow  
 Goats beard.  
*Trifolium pratense album* B. P. white  
 flower'd trefoil.  
*Trifolium pratense purpureum* B. P. Purple  
 flower'd trefoil.  
*Trifolium luteum lupulinum minimum*  
 Hist. Oxon. the least hop trefoil.  
*Trifolium palustre* B. P. marsh Trefoil.  
*Tussilago* J. B. Coltsfoot.  
*Typha palustris major* B. P. Cats-tail.  
*Valeriana Sylvestris major* B. P. great wild  
 Valerian.  
*Valeriana palustris minor* B. P. small wild  
 or marsh Valerian.  
*Verbascum vel primula veris flore simplici*  
 B. P. common Primerose.  
*Veronica mas supina & vulgarissima* B. P.  
 the male Speedwell or Fluellan.

D

Vicia



# 34      *A Description of the*

*Vicia Multiflora* B. P. tufted Vetch or Birds tears.

*Vicia segetum cum siliquis plurimis hirsutis* B. P. small wild Tare.

*Viola martia inodora Sylvestris* B. P. wild or Dogs Violet.

*Viola tricolor arvensis* B. P. Pansies or Hearts-ease.

*Virga aurea angustifolia minus serrata* B.P. common golden Rod.

*Urtica aculeata foliis serratis sive Canabis spuria* B. P. Bastard Hemp.

*Urtica urens maxima* B. P. common Nettle.

There are no Trees any where in all this Country, except some few Ashes Thorn and Plumb Trees that are in the Bishops Garden in *Kirkwal*. There are in some Gentlemens Gardens in *Kirkwal*, and several other places of the Country, some Apple and Cherry-trees, but they seldom bear Fruit that comes to any maturity ; and the Trees grow never higher than the Garden Walls. And, except some few wild Roses and Juniper that I see in *Hoy*, and the *Myrtillas* and Heath, which is common every where, I don't remember to have seen any Bush or Shrub growing wild

in all the Country. Yet in a great many Gardens they have several very good Plants both for Use and Ornament; *Cabbage, Turnip, Carrot, Parsnip, Skirret or Crummocks, &c.* grow to as great a bigness here as any where; and *Artichokes* to a greater than ever I have seen them in any other place.

I do not understand the reason why Trees don't grow here, since in the same Latitude in *Norway*, and some degrees more Northerly, Trees thrive very well, even on small Rocks surrounded by the Sea. I know not whether it be in places where the Sea makes such a breach as it does in some places of this Country, where the Sea-water, with the violence of the Storm, is carry'd a great way on the Land, and blasts all it falls on: This, with the violent Winds that oft blow in this Country, I think, may be one reason why Trees don't prosper so well; but if they have the same Breaches in *Norway*, I don't know what to say to it. Whether Trees have grown here of old; or, what is more probable, if it be the remains yet of the Flood, but commonly, in their Mosses,

D 2

## 36 *A Description of the*

ses, they find Trees of twenty or thirty Foot long.

After Storms of Westerly Wind, amongst the Sea-weed, they find commonly in places expos'd to the Western-Ocean these *Phaseoli*, that, I know not for what reason, go under the Name of *Molucca Beans*. The ingenious *Doctor Sloan* in the *Philosophical Transactions*, Number 222, gives a very satisfactory Account, how from the *West-Indies*, where they commonly grow, they may be thrown in on *Ireland*, the Western parts of *Scotland* and *Orkney*. You have the Figures of four different sorts of them.

Here is good store of Sheep and Cows, which tho' they be little, yet yield abundance of Milk. Their Ewes are so fertile, that most of them have two at a Birth, some three. I my self saw one that had four all living and following the Dam.

Their Horses are but little, yet strong, and can endure a great deal of Fatigue, most of which they have from *Zetland* and are call'd *Shelties*. There are great Herds of Swine and rich Warrens almost in every Isle, well stor'd with

with Rabbits. Frogs are seen but seldom, yet there are some Toads, tho', as it is thought, they are not poisonous, as indeed there are few, if any, poisonous Animals in all this Country.

Many *Ottars* and *Seols* are to be had every where, and oft times *Spout Whales* and *Pellacks* run in great number upon the shore and are taken, as in the Year 1691, near *Kairston* in the *Mainland*, there run in a Bay no less than a hundred and fourteen at once.

The *Stella-marina* and *Urtica-marina* are oft thrown in great plenty. In the Sea they catch Ling, Keeling, Haddock, Whiting, Mackrel, Turbat, Scate, Congre-Eels, Sole, Fleuks, &c. and sometimes they catch Sturgeon.

In the Year 1682, in Winter, there was taken a strange but beautifull Fish in *Sanda* (where several of them had been taken before) it was about an Ell in length, deep Breasted, and narrow at the Tail; the Head and Finns, and a stroke down the Back were all of a deep scarlet colour, which made it beautiful to look on; the rest was of a brownish colour, without scales, having several whitish spots in the Body; the

Fish of the half next the Head was like Beef, and of the other half next the Tail was like Salmon.

Herring swim thorough these Islands in great plenty, but the People are not so frugal, or have not the way, to catch them. Some Years ago, many Ships from *Fife* frequented this Country for the catching of Herrings; but the Seamen having been in the Year 1645, at the Battle of *Kilsyth*, they were there almost all Killed; since which time that Trade failed; tho' the Hollanders, to our eternal Reproach, fail not to keep it up to their great advantage.

Sometimes strange Fishes are cast a shore, to which the People give as strange Names. I see one like a Goose Feather, the Body being like the Quill, and the Tail like the Feather, of a reddish colour. This seems to be what *Gesner* calls, *Penna Marina Sitardi*. As for that strange sleeping Fish that *Boethius* mentions in his Description of this Country, I could never hear of it.

I have oft observ'd in the Head of the grayish Snail, those bright white Stones *Doctor Lister* mentions in his excellent Book, *De Cochleis & Araneis Angliæ*.  
The



The People here beat them to Powder, and reckon it a Specifick for the Gravel.

As to their Land Shells, I cannot so well describe, since, after I understood any thing of that part of Natural History, the very short time I staid there gave me but little opportunity to make so nice an enquiry as I should otherwise have done; only I observ'd a great variety of the *Cochleæ Terrestres*, both as to their *Macula* and *Fasciæ*, and that *buccinum rapium*, &c. which Dr. Lister describes *Tit. 8. De Cochleis Terrestribus*. Since there are no Rivers, there can no River-shells be expected here; but in their small Rivolets the *buccinum exiguum trium spirarum à sinistra in dextram convolutarum* was common: And of the Sea-shells I found the

*Buccinum album, læve, maximum, septem minime spirarum.*

*Buccinum crassum, rufescens, striatum & undatum.*

*Buccinum tenue, læve, striatum & undatum.*

*Buccinum bilingue, labro propatulo.* This Doctor Lister in his *Synopsis Conchyli-*  
D 4 *orum*

orum, makes [a] West-India Shell. I found it here common, as I found it afterwards in several other places of Scotland.

*Buccinum angustius, tenuiter admodum striatum, octo minimum spirarum.*

*Buccinum minus, albidum, asperum, intra quinas spiras finitum.*

*Buccinum minus, ex albo subviride, ore dentato, eoque ex flavo leviter rufescente.*

*Buccinum tenue, dense striatum, 12 minimum spiris donatum.*

*Cochlea fusca fasciis crebris angustisque prædita.*

*Cochlea rufescens, fasciis, maculatis, maxime ad imos crbes, distincta.*

*Nerita ex fusco viridescens, aut ex toto flavescens, modo pallide, modo intense ad colorem mali aurantii maturi.*

*Nerita fasciatus, unica lata fascia insignitus, cæterum subfuscus ex viridi.*

*Nerita reticulatus.*

*Trochus albidus maculis rubentibus distinctus, sex minimum spirarum.*

*Trochus crebris striis fuscis & transverse & undatim dispositis donatus.*

*Trochus minor cæruleus, striatus, umbilicatus, apice brevi.*

Concha

*Copcha Veneris exigua, alba, striata.* Nuns, call'd in Orkney, John-a-Groats buckies.

*Echinus marinus, orbicularis, esculentus.*

The largest of this kind I ever see any where are in Orkney; I have seen several of them twenty or thirty Inches in Circumference. The common people reckon the meat of the *Sea Urchin* or *Ivegars* as they call them a great Rarity, and use it oft instead of Butter.

*Patella ex livido cinera, striata.* The Limpet.

*Patella fusca, compressa, dense striata.*

*Patella articulata, cymbiformis.* I never see any of this kind any where but this one; yet *Rondeletius* has something pretty near it, and I have lately had one from the *West-Indies* that seems to be of that same kind, but bigger; see the Figure.

*Patella minor, fusca, tenuis, umbone nigro ad extremitatem anteriorem detruso, tribus inde lineis cæruleis per dorsum decurrentibus pulchre distincta.*

*Patella ovalis minor, viridis, nigra, fascia in medio donata.*

*Patella*

*Patella maxima ex albo viridescens, umbone ad partem anteriorem admodum detruso.*

*Ostreum vulgare maximum.* The largest Oysters ever I see any where, are got in some places of this Country, and the fittest for pickling; I have seen them so large that they must be cut in two or three pieces before they can be eaten: But the people are so careless that they have in few places Drags to take them up as they do elsewhere, but for the most part at a great ebb, go in amongst the Rocks and cut them off with a Knife.

*Concha longa lataque in mediis cardinibus cavitate quadam pyriformi insignita.*

*Concha quasi rhomboides in medio cardine utrinque circiter tribus exiguis denticulis donata.*

*Concha è maximis admodum crassa, rotunda ex nigro rufescens.*

*Concha tenuis subrotunda, omnium minime cava, cardinis medio sinu & amplo & pyriformi.*

*Concha*

*Concha crassa ex altera parte compressa  
ex altera subrotunda.*

*Concha parva subrotunda ex parte interna rubens.*

*Pecten maximus circiter 14 striis admodum crassis & eminentibus & iisdem ipsis striatis insignitus. Scallop or Clamshell.*

*Pecten tenuis, subrufus, maculosus, circiter 20 striis majoribus at levibus donatus.*

*Pecten minimus, angustior, inaequalis fere & asper, sinu ad cardinem cylindraceo, creberrimis minutissimisque striis donatus.*

*Pecten minor utrinque aequaliter auritus, profunde striatus, & ex albo & rubro pulchre variegatus.*

I could name a great many more of these kind of *Pectines*, that are by some reckon'd distinct species, but I think them all of the same kind, and that they have these accidental Colours, &c. from their being sometime expos'd to the weather, since I could never see any live shells have such Colours or be so variegated: And tho' they were I doubt if it be altogether warrantable in  
this



this part of natural History, to distinguish Shells only differing in some accidental Colours, more than it would be to reckon black and red Hair'd, those of a large or smaller Stature, different Species or Tribes of men.

I observ'd in *Stroma* a little Island that lies in *Pightland Firth*, and in some places in *Orkney*, where there went extraordinary cross and strong Tides, almost all the thinner sort of *Pectines*, so twisted and of such an irregular shape, that I was surpris'd to see it. I cannot think the odd strange tumbling the Tides make there, can contribute any thing to that frame ; yet after all I never see them so in any other place. See the Figure of one of them.

*Pectunculus maximus at minus concavus, plurimis minutioribus & parum eminentibus striis donatus, rostro, acuto & minus incurvato.*

*Pectunculus albus, exiguus, muricibus insigniter exasperatus.*

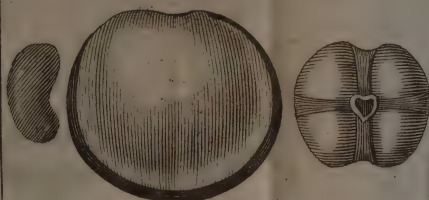
*Pectunculus maximus subfuscus valde gravis Listeri, Synop. Conch. Numb. 108.*

*Pectunculus maximus insigniter echinatus.*

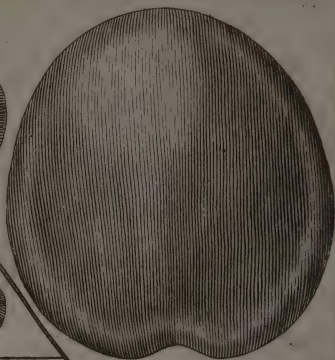
*Pectun-*



Figured Stones



Molucca Beans



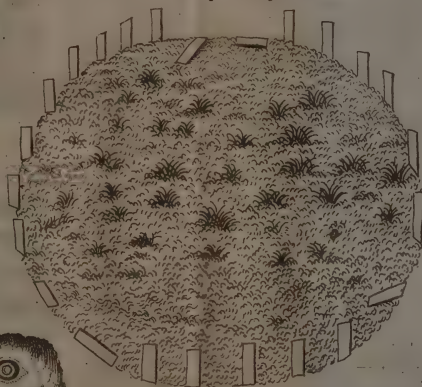
Penna Marma

*Piscis. non scriptus*



*pecten vide pag. 44.*

A Circle of long stones



Another molucca bean

Concha Anatifera

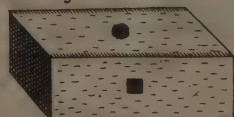


Urna Sepulchralis



Oboliscus

Dwarfie Stone



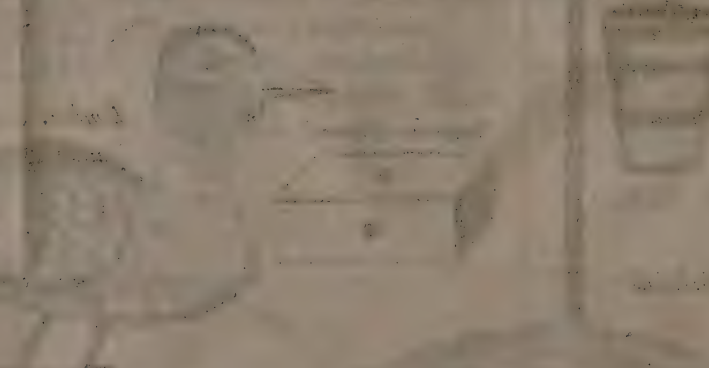
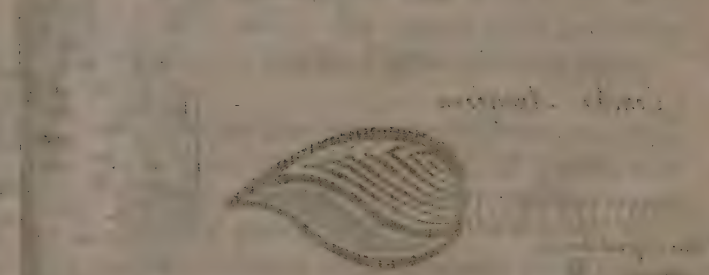
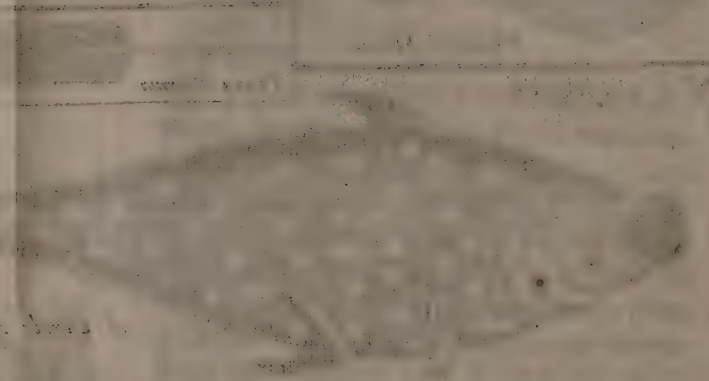
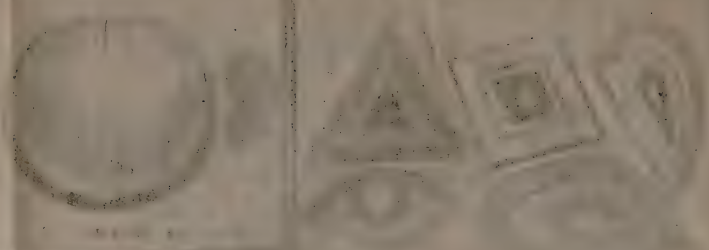
Ember. Goose



patolla articulata cymbiformis



Fibula



*Pectunculus vulgaris*, albidus, rotundus, circiter 26 strijs majusculis at planioribus donatus. The Cockle.

*Tellina intus ex viola purpurascens*, in ambitu serrata. I have a great many more of these *Tellinae* of different Colours, and some very beautifully variegated, but I reckon them on the same score with the *Pectines* that are so.

*Concha levis*, altera tantum parte clausilis, apophysi admodum prominente, lataq; prædita.

*Solen sive concha tenuis longissimaq; ab utraq; parte naturaliter hians*. The Spout Fish.

*Musculus ex cæruleo niger*. The common Muscle.

On a Log of wood which has been some time in the Sea, and afterwards thrown upon the shore by some Storm, I have seen thousands of the *Balani Rondeletij*, or the *Concha Anatifera*; and on the Rocks every where the

*Balanus cinereus*, velut è senis laminis striatis compositus, ipso vertice, altera testa bifida rhomboide occluso.

There



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There is such abundance almost every where of Shell-fish, but especially Cockles, that the whole Country is serv'd no other way with Lime, but by those Shells burn'd, which makes a very fair Lime, and does very well in Plaister, though I doubt whether it be so proper for Building as stone Lime is.

As to the Crustaceous Fishes, as *Lobsters, Crabs, &c.* they are in as great abundance here, as any where.

Here is plenty of tame and wild Fowl ; they reckon they have 8 or 9 different sorts of wild Geese, and of gray *Plover, Moorfowl, Wild-Duck, Swans, Teal, Whaps, or Curlew, &c.* there is no place better stor'd. They have likewise many *Foists* and *Lyers* both Sea Fowls very fat and delicious. Sometime the *Stock-Owl* and *Bittern* have been seen in this Country. Eagle and Earns as they call them, and Gledes or Kites are here in great plenty, and very hurtful to their young Store: Yea, they have been found to seize upon young Children and carry them a good way off; and there is yet a Man alive, one *John Hay*, living now in *Sanda*, who was thus carried



carried away by an Eagle, while a young Child in swadling cloaths (his Mother having left him on the Grass, till she went a little way to carry somewhat) to her Nest; but was so speedily by the blessing of God prevented that no harm was done to him. There is a Law in this Country, that if any kill any of these *Earns* or *Eagles*, he is to have a Hen out of every house in the Parish in which it is killed.

*Hawks* and *Falcons* have their Nests in several places of these Islands; as in the *Noup*, *Swendal*, and *Rapnes* in *Westra*; at *Highberry* and *Aith-head* in *Waes*; at *Braebrake*, *Furcarsdale* and *Rathwick* in *Hoy*; at *Halcro*, *Greehead* and *Hocksa* in *South-Ronalsha*; at *Bellibrake* and *Quendal* in *Rousa*; at *Rousumhead* and *Lambhead* in *Stronsa*, in the calf of *Eda*; at *Gatnip*, *Gultack*, *Mulehead*, in *Dierness*, *Copinsba*, *Blackcraig* of *Stromnes*, *Teskrabie*, *Birsa*, *Marwick* and *Costahed* in the *Mainland*. The King's Falconer comes every Year, and takes the young, who has Twenty Pound Sterling in Salary, and a Hen or Dog out of every House in the

the Country, except some places that are Privileg'd.

There are several Mines of Tinn, Lead, and perhaps of other Metals, especially in the *Mainland*, *South-Ronalsha*, *Hoy*, *Stronsa*, *Sanda*, but are neglected, or not improved, through Poverty or Carelessness. A great deal of Marble is found, especially in the *Mainland*, of which the Husbandman makes good use for marmor. In many places are Quarries of excellent free or sand Stone and Slate. Not far from *Birsa* at *Buckquoy* and *Swinna* are to be found some Veins of Marble and Alabaster.

On the shore, sometimes, is to be found *Sperma Ceti*, *Ambergreese*, *Water-sponges*, and a great many Cuttle-bones, or *Os Sepia*. Sometimes they catch Exotick Fowls, driven in by the Wind in time of a Storm; as one some time ago that had along Beak, a large tuft on the Head, in fashion of a Crown, with speckled Feathers, very pleasant to see, which, I believe, was the *Upupa*; and two or three Years ago, in *Sanda*, there was a very beautiful Bird driven in there alive; they afterwards shot it, and I had it sent me; 'twas something like  
a Wood-

a Woodpecker, but of extraordinary lively Colours, especially a light Blue and a Green: And I have seen the *Albardeola*, or *Shovelaer*, driven in there.

Some Years since, the Day being exceeding Stormy, there were found before a Gentleman's Door in *Kirkwal*, some little distance from the Sea, seven or eight *Quiths* (a Fish something less than a Whiting) half alive, as if they had been but newly taken; it's like the violent Wind, they swimming on the top of the Water, had heav'd them out of the Sea, and when the strength of the blast was gone, they had fall'n on that place,

But how violently the Wind blows here, and how great is the force of the Sea breach, may appear from this, That at *Cantick-head* and *Ofnua-head* in *Waes*, there are, by the violence of the Sea and Winds, large Stones thrown up from the bottom, a great way above the Rock, some so large, That some Men can hardly move them.

This Country being divided in to small Islands, it cannot be expected there should be in it any Rivers, yet there is every where a great many Rivulets or  
E Bourns,

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Bourns, as they call them, well replenish'd with Trouts, both small and great, some of them like to young Salmon.

There is a large Loch or Lake in the *Mainland*, call'd the Loch of *Stennis*, but unfruitful. Besides that, there are in every Island some small Lochs, but they serve for no other use but to afford Water to their Mills and Cattle. There be also some Lochs that have some remarkable properties, as Saint *Tredwell's* Loch, in *Papa-Westra*, which, they say, is Medicinal; but for what I know not: There is another Loch in *Shapinsba*, of which, it is said, that if any wash their feet in it, they will strike out in Blisters. The Loch of *Swanna*, in the *Mainland*, will have, in some parts, a thick scum, of a Copper Colour, upon it, which makes some think there is some Mine under it.

This Country is most commodious for Navigation, there being every where excellent Bays and Ports for Shipping, the most remarkable of which I have given an account of in the last Chapter.

C H A P. III.

*Of the Ancient Monuments and Curiosities of this Country. An Account of the Dwarfie Stone in Hoy. Of the Obelisks and standing Stones in Stennis. Of the figur'd Stone Causey near Skeal. Of some Urns and Burial Places found in several places. An Account of the Finn-men that are sometimes driven in there.*

**T**Here is in *Hoy*, lying betwixt two Hills, a Stone, call'd the *Dwarfie-Stone*, which is one entire Stone, thirty six Foot long, eighteen Foot broad, nine Foot thick; hallow'd within by the Hand of some Mafon (for the prints of the Irons are to be feen on it to this day) with a square hole of about two Foot high for the entry, and a Stone proportionable standing before it for a Door. Within, at one end, is a Bed excellently cut out of the Stone, with a Pillow, wherein two Men may lie together at their full length; at the other



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end is a Couch, and in the middle a Hearth for a Fire, with a round hole cut out above for the Chimney. It stands in a desolate melancholy place, more than a Mile from any inhabited House, and all the Ground about it nothing but high Heath and Heather. It's thought to have been the residence of some melancholy Hermit. See the Figure of it.

At the West-end of this Stone stands on exceeding high Mountain, of a steep ascent, call'd the *Wart Hill of Hoy*; near the top of which, in the Month of *May*, *June*, and *July*, about Mid-day, is seen something that shines and sparkles admirably, and which is often seen a great way off. It hath shined more brightly before than it does now, tho' many have climbed up the Hill, and attempted to search for it, yet they could find nothing. The Vulgar talk of it as some enchanted Carbuncle; but I take it rather to be some Water sliding down the face of a smooth Rock, which when the Sun at such a time shines upon, the reflection causeth that admirable splendor.

At *Stennis*, in the *Mainland*, where the Loch is narrowest, in the middle, having a Causey of Stones over it for a Bridge, there is, at the South-end of the Bridge, a Round set about with high smooth Stones or Flags, about twenty Foot high above ground, six Foot broad, and each a Foot or two thick. Betwixt that Round and the Bridge are two Stones standing of that same largeness with the rest, whereof one hath a round hole in the midst of it; and at the other end of the Bridge, about half a Mile removed from it, is a large Round about an hundred and ten paces in Diameter, set about with such Stones as the former, but that some of them are fall'n down; and at both East and West of this bigger Round, are two artificial (as is thought) green Mounts; both these Rounds are ditched about. See the Figure of it.

Some think that these Rounds have been places whereon two opposite Armies have encamped; but I think it more probable that they have been the high places in the *Pagan* times, whereon Sacrifice was offered, and that these two Mounts were the places where the

Ashes of the Sacrifice was flung. And this is the more probable, because *Boethius*, in the Life of *Mainus*, King of *Scots*, makes mention of that kind of high Stones, calling them the Temples of the Gods. His words are these. “ In  
 “ Memory of what King *Mainus* ordai-  
 “ ned anent the worship of the Gods,  
 “ there remains yet, in our days, many  
 “ huge Stones drawn together in form  
 “ of a Circle, named by the People the  
 “ Ancient Temples of the Gods ; and it  
 “ is no small admiration to consider by  
 “ what Art or Strength so many huge  
 “ Stones have been brought together. So far *Boethius*.

There are besides in many other places of this Country, *Obelisks*, or great high Stones, set in the Ground like the former, and standing apart (and indeed they are so very large that none sees them, but wonders by what Engine they have been erected) which are thought to be set up either as a memorial of some famous Battle, or as a monument of some remarkable Person that has been buried there ; that way of honouring deserving and valiant Men, being

ing the invention of King *Rentha*, as *Boethius* says.

There is in *Rousay*, betwixt high Mountains, a place, call'd the Camp of *Jupiter Fring*. The name is strange and would import some notable accident; but what it was I could not learn.

At the West-end of the *Mainland*, near *Skeal*, on the top of high Rocks, more than a quarter of a Mile in length, there is something like a Street all set in red Clay, with a sort of reddish Stones of several figures and magnitudes; having the Images and Representations of several things, as it were, engraven on them; and, which is very strange, a great many of these Stones, when they are raised up, have that same Image engraven under, which they have above. This Causey is all along the tops of Rocks, and though they be otherwise of a very considerable heighth above the Sea, yet the West Ocean in a Storm leading that way, does dash with such violence against the Rocks, that the Sea breaches do wash the Ground on the tops of the Rocks. If these Stones had not the same Figure on that side next the ground

that they have above, I should think the Sea washing over them might occasion these different figures, by washing away the softish parts of the Stone and leaving the harder, and so accordingly give them these accidental Shapes and Figures. Tho' there are a great many of them still remaining, yet the Gentlemen living near that place have taken away those that had the prettiest Figures to set their Chimnies with, as they use to do in *Holland* with painted Bricks and Tiles.

In the Links of *Skeal*, where the Sand is blown away with the Wind, are found several places built square, with Stones well cemented together, and a Stone lying in the mouth, having some black Earth in them. The like of which also are found in the Links of *Rousum* in *Stronfa*; where also, some Years ago, was found another remarkable Monument. It was a whole round Stone like a Barrel, hollow within, sharp edged at the top, having the bottom joyn'd like the bottom of a Barrel; on the mouth was a round Stone conform to the mouth of the Monument, and above that a large Stone for the preservation



vation of the whole; within was nothing but red Clay and burn'd Bones. See the Figure. It's like that this and the other Four-square Monuments have been some of these Urns wherein the Romans, when they were in this Country, laid up the Ashes of their dead. Likewise in the Links of *Tranabie*, in *Westra*, have been found Graves in the Sand, in one of which was seen a Man lying with his Sword on the one Hand, and a Danish Axe on the other; and others that have had Dogs, and Combs and Knives bury'd with them, which seems to shew the way how the *Danes*, when they were in this Country, bury'd their dead, as the other was of the *Romans*. Besides in many places of the Country are found little Hillocks, which may be supposed to be the *Sepulchres* of the ancient *Pights*. For *Tacitus* tells that it was the way of the ancient *Romans*, and *Verstegan* that it was the way of the ancient *Germans* and *Saxons*, to lay dead Bodies on the ground, and cover them over with turfs and clods of earth, in the fashion of little Hillocks: hence it seems that the many Houses and Villages in this Country, which

which are call'd by the name of *Brogh*, and which all of them are built upon, or beside some such rising ground, have been cemeteries for the burying of the dead in the time of the *Pights* and *Saxons* : For the word *Brogh* in the Teutonick Language, signifies a burying place.

In one of these hillocks near the circle of high Stones, at the North end of the Bridge of *Stennis*, there were found nine *Fibula* of Silver of the shape of a Horse-shoe, but round. See the Figure of one of them.

Moreover in many places of this Country, are to be seen the ruins and vestiges of great but antique Buildings ; most of them now covered over with Earth, and call'd in this Country *Pights* Houses, some of which its like have been the Forts and Residences of the *Pights* and *Danes*, when they possess'd this Country.

Among the rest there is one in the Isle of *Wyre*, called the Castle of *Cubbe-row*, or rather *Coppi-row*, which in the Teutonick Language, signifies a Tower of Security from outward violence. It is Trenched about, of it nothing now remains

remains but the first Floor. It is a perfect Square, the Wall eight foot thick, strongly built and cemented with Lime, the breadth or length within Walls not being above ten foot, having a large Door and a slit for the Window. Of this *Cubbirow* the Common people report many Idle Fables, not fit to be inserted here.

In the Parish of *Hara* in the *Mainland*, in a Marle-pit as they were digging Marle for mannor to their ground, there was found in the Marle a large piece of a Harts horn, as I was credibly inform'd by a Gentleman who got the Horn from these men, and had it then by him.

In the Parish of *Evie* near the Sea are some small hillocks, which frequently in the night time appear all in a Fire, and the Church of *Evie* called *St. Nicholas*, is oft seen full of Light, as if Torches or Candles were burning in it all night. This amazes the people greatly, but possibly it's nothing else but some thick glutinous Meteor, that receives that Light in the night time.

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At the *Noup-head* in *Westra* is a Rock furrounded with the Sea, call'd *Lefs*, which the inhabitants of that Isle say, has this strange property ; that if a Man go upon it, having any Iron upon him, the Sea will instantly swell in such a Tempestuous way, that no Boat can come near to take him off, and the Sea will not be calm'd till the Iron be thrown away : I being there to make an experiment of it, offer'd Money to a poor fellow, to go upon the Rock, with a piece of Iron, but he would not do it on any terms.

Sometimes about this Country, are seen these men they call *Finn-men*. In the year 1682, one was seen in his little Boat, at the South end of the Isle of *Eda*, most of the people of the Isle flock'd to see him, and when they adventur'd to put out a Boat with Men to see if they could apprehend him, he presently fled away most swiftly. And in the year 1684, another was seen from *Westra* ; I must acknowledge it seems a little unaccountable, how these *Finn-men* should come on this coast, but they must probably be driven by Storms from home, and cannot tell when they  
are

are any way at Sea, how to make their way home again ; they have this advantage, that be the Seas never so boisterous their Boat being made of Fish Skins, are so contrived that he can never sink, but is like a Sea-gull swimming on the top of the Water. His shirt he has is so fastned to the Boat, that no Water can come into his Boat to do him damage, except when he pleases to unty it, which he never does but to ease nature, or when he comes ashore. A full account of these *Finn-men*, may be had *en L'histoire naturelle & morale des Antilles* Chap. 18. One of their Boats which was catched in *Orkney*, was sent from thence to *Edinburgh*, and is to be seen in the Physicians Hall, with the Oar and Dart he makes use of for killing Fish. There is another of their Boats in the Church of *Burra* in *Orkney*.



## C H A P. IV.

*Some peculiar Customs, Manners and Dispositions of the Inhabitants of this Country. An Account of a Woman that had a Child in the 63d Year of her Age. An Account of their Diseases and some of their particular Cures. A particular Language amongst them. Their way of Transporting and Weighing their Corn. Their custom of Sheep-shearing : And the way they have to catch Sea-Fowls. And an Account of some Remarkable Accidents that have fallen out here.*

THE People here are generally civil, sagacious, circumspect and piously inclined ; Though *Boethius* reports them to be great Drunkards and *Maginus* says of them, *quod sunt bibacissimi, nunquam tamen inebriantur*, yet now it is not so ; for though they use strong Ale and Beer ( the nature of the Country requiring strong Liquor ) yet generally they are Sober and Temperate, but withal much given to Hospitality and

and Feasting, very civil and liberal in their entertaining of Strangers, and much inclined to speak ill of those that are peevishly or niggardly dispos'd.

*Buchanan* tells a Story, which is still believ'd here and talk'd of as a truth, though now there be nothing of it. That at *Scapa* a place about a mile of *Kirkwal* to the South, there was kept a large cup, and when any new Bishop landed there, they filled it with strong Ale, and offer'd it to him to drink, and if he happened to drink it of chearfully, they promised to themselves a Noble Bishop, and many good years in his time.

In many places the Landlord has his Tenant bound to give him and his followers, a liberal Entertainment once a year, especially at *Christmas* (at which time the People of this Country are generally inclin'd to Feasting) and the Tenant wont fail to have good Victuals and strong Ale (which they call *Bummock*) in readiness, and will be much offended if the Landlord refuse to make merry with them.

The

The People are generally personable, and comely, *Polyd. Virgil* says of them, *Quod statura sunt procera, semper sano corpore, pariter ac mente, quo fit ut multo longissimam degant etatem, etsi piscibus ut plurimum victitant.* The Women are Lovely and of a Beautiful countenance, and very broody and apt for generation ; one *Marjory Bimbister* in the Parish of *Evie*, was in the year 1683, brought to bed of a Male child in the sixty third year of her age, as may be seen by the following attestation.

We under subscribers testify and declare that *Marjory Bimbister* in the Parish of *Evie* in *Orkney*, was in *September* 1683. untimely delivered of a Male child ; though we have also sure account of her age in our Register of Baptism, yet many of the Parish who are of sixty four years, and whose age is certainly known, report that to their knowledge she is as old as they : besides her self remembers, that in the year 1631, (which was a year of Famine in this Country, and from which the common People usually reckon) she was keeping Cattle, being then a Girl

Girl, as she thought, about nine or ten Years of Age. In the Year 1660, she was marry'd to *Adam Hourie*, to whom, about five Years after, viz. Anno 1665, she had a Child, from which time she was Barren till September 1683, when she was delivered of a male Child; at which time, it is probably thought, both by her Neighbors and nearest Relations, that she was at least about Sixty two or Sixty three Years.

Sic Subscri-  
bitur

{ *Ja. Grahame*, Minister.  
    *Will. Ballenden*.  
    *Edward Sinclair*, Clerk.  
    *Will. Halcro*.

By reason of the temperance of their Dyet and wholsomness of the Air, the People usually live to a great Age. A Man in the Parish of *Ham* dyed not many Years since, who liv'd upwards of Fourscore Years with one Wife, in a marry'd estate. There is also a Gentleman, yet living in *Stronja*, who was Begotten of his Father when he was an hundred Years old, and did live till he saw this same Man's Children.

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Some there be also of an exceeding high Stature, as that young Man, who, for his height, was usually call'd, *The Mickle Man of Waes*, as being a great deal higher than the common sort of Men. At the Chapple of *Clet*, in *Sanda*, is a Grave to be seen, wherein, they say, a Giant was bury'd; and indeed the Stone that is laid upon the Grave is about twelve Foot long; so that, if the Body has been proportionable to the Grave, it has been exceeding monstrous.

The more common and general Diseases here are the Scurvy, Agues, Consumptions, &c. Commonly in the Spring they are troubled with an Aguish Distemper which they call the *Axes*, but for this there are *Quacks* amongst them that pretend an infallible Cure, by way of Diet-drink, infusing a Hotch-potch of several Plants (I suppose what are greenest at that time) in an English Gallon of Ale; the Receipt is this, They take of *Buckhorn, Plantain, Water Plantain, Lovage, wild Daisie, Rocket, Roots of Elecampane, Millefoil, Roots of Spignell, Dandelyon, Parsley Roots, Wormwood, Cumfrey, Tansey, Thrift or Sea-Pink, Garden Angelica*, and  
a kind



a kind of *Masterwort*, the *Imperatoria affinis*; of all these they take a like quantity, to wit, about half a handful, and of this Infusion they drink half a Pint Morning and Evening. This is what they call the *Axes Grass*, and the old Women talk wonders of it, pretending there are so many of the Herbs good for the Liver, so many good for the Head, and so many for the Heart, Spleen, &c.

In Phthifical Distempers they use *Arby*, the *Caryophyllus Marinus*, *Thrift* or much as they call it, boyl'd with sweet Milk.

Instead of a Cupping-glass they have a Horn with a small thin Skin at the smaller end. The way how they use it is thus: The Surgeon with the point of his Knife gives three or four small cuts or gasches on the place where he purposes to set the Horn; and having set the broadest end on the Wounds, he sucks the small end a little, and then lets it stand till the abundance of Blood it draws makes it fall off. Some have a way, as they pretend (if they be to Cure any akeing or inward Pain) to draw out several little Worms out of the

part affected, whereby they remove the Pain. Others there be that use Charms for the curing of the Rickets, &c. but these are much curbed by their Ministers.

All speak English, after the Scots way, with as good an Accent as any County in the Kingdom, only some of the common People, amongst themselves, speak a Language they call *Norns*; which they have derived to them, either from the *Pights*, or some others, who first planted this Country; for by the following Lord's Prayer, in that Language, it has but little of the *Danish* or *Norwegian* Language, to which I thought it should have had more affinity, considering how long time they were possessors of this Country.

Favor i ir i chimrie, Hel-  
 leur ir i nam thite, gilla cos-  
 dum thite cumma, beya  
 thine mota vara gozt o yurn  
 sinna gozt i chimrie, ga bus  
 da on da dalight brow voza,  
 Firgibe bus sinna voza sin  
 vee

vee Firgibe lindara mutha  
bus, lyb bus ye i tumitation,  
min delibera bus fro olt ilt,  
Amen. Or On sa meteth  
beza.

Since *Gesner*, in his *Mithridates*, nor  
Bishop *Wilkins*, in his *Real Character*,  
have nothing like this, I thought this  
Formula might not be unacceptable.

Anciently, as they are yet in great  
measure, they were much given to Su-  
perstition, as appears by the many Cha-  
pels that are here and there disperfed  
through the Country; but the Chapels  
to which molt frequently they made  
their Pilgrimage, were to the Chapels  
of the *Brough* of *Birsa*, and to the Cha-  
pel of the *Brough* at the *Mulehead* in  
*Deirness*; these two Chapels standing at  
the furthest extremities of the *Mainland*  
East and West; nor to this day are these  
Pilgrimages omitted by the common  
People, who still, for the obtaining of  
some good, or deprecating of some evil,  
do frequent some Chapels they have  
most veneration for. Besides, they have  
this general custome; The day that is

dedicated to the Memory of the Saint who is Patron of the chief Church, where Sermon is made, is kept Holy by the common People of the whole Parish; so that they will not Work on that day: And those that live next the smaller Chapels do moreover keep holy that Day, that is dedicated to the Memory of that Saint, that Chapel is denominated by.

Here they make no use of Poaks or Sacks, but a sort of Vessel made of Straw, which they call *Cassies*, in which they keep and transport their Corn: Nor do they make use of Peck and Firlot, or any other Measure, for their Grain, as they use to do thorough the rest of the Kingdom, but weigh all, which they have a particular way of doing with Bismires for small Weights; and Poundlers, as they call them, for great Weights. In most it resembles a Stilliard that Money is weighed on. It is a Beam of Timber marked with different weights, which hath a Stone at one end (which Stone on the Malt Poundler should be a setten weight, and on the Bear Poundler sixteen Merk) and a Hook at the other end for hanging up the *Cassie* in which

which the Corn or Meal is, and there is a Ring in the middle near the Sheir that has a Pole thrust thorough it, by which, by the help of a Man at each end all is supported, that the Cassie may swim fair. The least weight is call'd a Merk, which will be eighteen Ounces, twenty four Merks make a Lecspound or Setten, six Settens make a Meil (equivalent to a Boll) and eighteen Meils make a Chaldron.

In every Isle they have a Wart-hill, or Ward-hill, which is the most conspicuous and elevated part of the Isle, on which, in time of War, they keep Ward; and when they see the Enemies Ships approaching, they put a Fire, thereby to give notice to the adjacent Isles of the nearness of the Enemy, and to advertise them to be on their Guard, or to come to their help; this they distinguish by the number of Fires.

Their Corn Land is every where Parked, and without these inclosures their Sheep and Swine, and some of their Cattle go at random, without a Herdsman to keep them. The most ordinary Manour they have for their Land, especially in places near the Sea, is, Sea-weed,



weed, Sea-ware, as they call it; and in Bayes, after Storms, when the Wrack is driven in greater plenty, all the People of the Neighbourhood come and divide the Wrack according to the proportion of Land they have about that place; but methinks 'tis the greatest slavery in the World, for the common People, as they do there in Winter, to carry this Wrack in small Vessels made of Straw or Cassies on their Backs to their Land.

All their Sheep are marked on the Ears or Nose, every man that hath Sheep hath his own Mark, whereby his Sheep are distinguish'd from others: And 'tis strange to consider how so many different Marks could be invented, as are found cut in so little room. They use to Fleece their Sheep about the beginning of *May*, and the way they take to apprehend them (for they go wild) is both strange and pleasant. The Bailiff of the Parish, with the *Law-right-men* which are the Bailiffs Assessors, and the persons to whom the Sheep belong meet together on a day appointed, having with them Sheep Dogs, trained up for the Hunting of them; and when they

they would have such a Sheep caught, they point him out by the finger to the Dog, upon which he runs and singles out that Sheep from all the rest, and never leaves of running till he catch him, which being fleec'd or shorn by the owner; they then go on and hunt for others.

They have also a pleasant way of taking the Sea Fowls when they are young as *Foists*, *Eyers*, *Kittimaeks*, *Gulls* &c. which build very thick on shelves of high Rocks; under the Rock there is a Boat with men having a large Net, which at the two uppermost corners is fastned with two long Ropes, which are in the hands of men at the top of the Rock, who hoise up the Net till it be over against the place where the young Fowl sit, then they that are in the Boat under the Rock, have a Rattle which makes so frightening a noise, that all the young Fowls take wing and fly forward into the bosom of the Net where they are caught: Then the Net is laid down in the Boat and the Prey seized upon, and thus they go from Rock to Rock taking as many as they can.

Others

Others have this way in taking these Fowls, a Man that is accustomed to the exercise has a Rope well bound about his middle, with which he is let slide down the steep Rock, till he be over against the place where the young Fowls are, of whom he apprehends as many as he is able to carry and then is hoisted up with his Prey. They use that way also in taking the young Hawks. There are some Fellows so hardy that go a catching of Sea Fowls without any help, by tying a Rope about his own middle, and tying the other end to a Stake, which he drives well in the Ground, and so lets himself go over the Rock (perhaps some hundred of fathoms) and catches what Fowls he can and then hoises himself up again.

Several remarkable accidents have fall'n out in this Country, besides some already mentioned. I shall instance in three or four only, whereof the witnesses are still alive. About the year 1634, when Bishop *Grahame* was Bishop of this Country, a young Boy named *William Garioch*, his Father being dead, had some little Land, and some small portion of Cattle, left him by his Father

ther in the Parish of *Ham*; his Uncle took him in his Service, and having a greedy desire after the Young mans Possessions, it happen'd that he stole a Setten of Barley (which will be about Twenty Eight pound weight) from his Uncle: For which he pursued him before the Sheriff of the Bishoprick, and the Young man, at that time about Eighteen years of Age, the Theft being proved was Sentenced to be hanged. When he was at the Gallows he prayed that God would inflict some visible Judgment on his Uncle, who because of the greedy desire he had to his little Portion, had for so small a matter procur'd his Death. It came to pass that his Uncle walking thorough the Church-Yard of *Kirkwal*, upon the Young mans Grave, the Bishops Dog seised on him and tore out his Throat, whereby he became a sad monument of God's wrath, against such impious greedy wretches.

Some years ago, one *James Lenay* and some others, Fishing in a Boat beside *Auskerie*, in a fair day it came to pass, that their leaning all on one side of the Boat, that it overturned and all  
were

were drowned, except the said *Lenay*, who by providence got up, and sat on the Keil of the Boat, in which condition he continued for the space of four days, driven by the Tides, sometime this way, and sometime that, sometimes to *Westra*, and back again to *Stronsa*, till at last he was seen floating by *Spurness* in *Sanda*, where by the careful endeavour of the Gentleman who was owner of the Ground he was delivered.

There was one *John Smith* who lived in *Stronsa*, who, with three others used to fish not far from Land; their way was to rise early and stay many Hours a Fishing. This Man having, by several days Fishing, gotten a great plenty of Fish, his Wife was desirous that he would omit that exercise for a time, and stay at home to take his rest. He was very unwilling to do so, wherefore next Morning she rises before him, and being desirous he might take a longer Sleep, after so many days toil, she stopped the holes and windows of the Room where he lay that he might sleep the more soundly, and then she went to the Fields to her work, where, working with



with her Servants she was surpris'd with this sad accident. The three men that used to fish with her Husband, because he came not, had taken the Boat themselves and gone a Fishing, and suddenly the Boat overturned (no man knows how) and the men were all drowned. This the Woman and her Servants seeing startled them greatly, but tho' she was grieved for their death, yet she was glad that her Husband (by her Policy) went not to Sea with them, and thereupon runs hastily to the house to acquaint her Husband with that sad accident, and to congratulate with him for his preservation: when opening the door she was surpris'd with a more sad and astonishing sight, even the Death of her own husband: For he having risen out of his bed, had fallen with his head in a large vessel wherein they used to make Urine, where he was choked and found dead.

Strange are the effects that are here sometimes produc'd by Thunder and Lightning, for by it, *Anno* 1670 the Steeple of the Cathedral Church at *Kirkwall* was burned, and sometimes it will seize on low Cottages. In the  
year

year 1680 the Lightning enter'd a Gentlemans Cow-stall, where were twelve Cows standing side for side, as they used to be, and killed every other one, that is, it killed the first, and missed the second; it killed the third, and missed the fourth, and so of the rest; so that six were killed and six remained alive and untouched.

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## C H A P. V.

*Of the Town of Kirkwall.*

**T**HE only remarkable Town in all this Country is *Kirkwall*, an ancient Burrough long possessed by the *Normegians*, by whom it was called *Cracoviaca*, built upon a pleasant Oyse or Inlet of the Sea, near the middle of the *Mainland*; narrow strected, and about a mile in length, having a very safe Harbour and road for Ships. Here is the Seat of Justice, the Steward, Sheriff, Commissary, all of them keeping their several Courts in this place. Almost all the Houses in this Town are Slaited, but the most remarkable Edifices

fices in it are the Cathedral Church and the Bishops Palace. As for the Kings Castle it is new demolished, but by the Ruins it appears to have been a strong and stately Fort, and probably built by some of the Bishops of *Orkney*, as would appear from a remarkable Stone set in the midst of the Wall, which looks towards the street, with a Bishops Miter and Arms engraven'd on it. There is here a publick School for the Teaching of Grammar, endowed with a competent Salary, and at the North end of the Town is a place built by the *English* in *Oliver's* time, Ditched about, with a Breast-work, and some other Fortifications, on which they have some Cannon planted for the defence of the Harbour.

This Town had been erected into a Royal Burrough in the time of the *Norwegians*, and *Anno* 1486, King *James* the Third gave them a Charter, confirming their old Erection and Privileges; specifying their antiquity, and giving them power to hold Burrough Courts, to incarcerate and arrest, to make Laws and Ordinances, and to elect their own Magistrates yearly for the

the right Government of the Town, and to have a weekly Market on *Tuesday* and *Friday*, and three Fairs in the Year, one about *Palm-Sunday*, the other at *Lammas*, and the third at *Martinmas*, each to continue three Days; he moreover disposed over to them some Lands about the Town, with the Customs and shore dues, and the power of a Pitt and Gallows, and all other privileges granted to any Royal Burrough within the Kingdom, exeeming them from sending any Commissioners to Parliament, unless their own necessities require it. This Charter is dated at *Edinburgh* the last of *March* 1486, and in the Year 1536 *February* the 8th, King *James V.* ratified the former Charter, by a new Charter of Confirmation. And in the Year 1661 King *Charles II.* after his Restoration ratified the former Charters, at *Whitehall* *May* 25th, whereupon the Parliament at *Edinburgh*, *August* 22d 1670 confirm'd all by their Act, yet with this special provision, That what was granted to them by that Act, might not prejudice the Interest of the Bishop of *Orkney*.

This Town is govern'd by a Provost, Four Bailiffs, and a Common Counsel, as in other Royal Burroughs. CHAP.

## C H A P. VI.

*Of the ancient State of the Church of Orkney. Of the Cathedral Church at Kirkwall. Bishop Robert Reid's erection of the Chapter. Bishop Law's Transaction with King James VI.*

THE Church of this Country, as also that of *Zetland*, was under the Government of one Bishop, stil'd Bishop of *Orkney* and *Zetland*. The Bishop's Revenue was great before, but at present, it will not amount to much more than Six hundred Pound Sterling; and now the King's Exchequer, considering how much that Country has of late been impoverished, Farm it out for Four hundred Pound Sterling.

The Cathedral Church is *St. Magnus's* Church in *Kirkwall*; it was founded, as is thought, by *St. Magnus*, or rather by *Rolland* Earl of *Orkney*, who founded it in memory of his Cozen *St. Magnus*. See the double of the Manuscript in the 8th Chapter; but it has been enlarged  
G by



by some of the Pious Bishops of that See; for Bishop *Steward* enlarged it to the East, all above the Grees, and Bishop *Reid* three Pillars to the West. It's as beautiful and stately a Structure as is in the Kingdom, and perhaps by much the longest as it is now; for I have measured it, and, by some Feet, it is longer than that of *St. Giles* at *Edinburgh*; it's built cross-ways, for the most part of Free-stone, standing on Pillars, all most curiously vaulted, and the Steeple elevated to a great height, in which is a set of as excellent and sweetly chim'd Bells, as are in any Cathedral of the Kingdom. In the Year 1670, the Pyramid of the Steeple, being cover'd with Wood, was burn'd by Thunder; but by the Care of Bishop *Mackenzie*, and his Liberality, and some other Charitable Persons, it is again Repaired.

Besides the Cathedral, there are one and thirty Churches more in this Country, wherein Divine Service is celebrated, as also a great many ancient Chapels, above an hundred in number, which shews that this Country was no less anciently than it is at present addicted to Devotion.

This

This Diocess had its several ancient Dignities and Privileges for a long time; but these, by the constant trouble this Country was in by the change of Masters, being lessen'd and grown worse, Bishop *Robert Reid* made a new Erection and Foundation of the Chapter, viz. Seven Dignities, whereof the first was a Provost or Dean, to whom, under the Bishop, the Correction and oversight of the Canons, Prebendaries and Chaplains was to belong. He had allotted to him the Prebend of Holy Trinity, and Vicarage of *South-Ronalsba*, with the Maintenance of the Church of *Burza*. 2. An Archdeacon, who was to Govern the People according to the disposition of the Canon-law, and to him was allotted the Archdeacons ancient Rights, the Vicarage of *Birsa* and Chaplainry of *St. Ola*, within the Cathedral Church of *Kirkwall*, together with the Maintenance of the Church of *Hara*. 3. A Precentor who was to rule the Singers in the Quire, in the elevation or depression of their Songs; and to him was allotted the Prebend of *Orphir* and Vicarage of *Stennis*. 4. A Chancellor, who was to be learned in

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both Laws, and bound to read in the Pontifical Law publickly in the Chapter to all that ought to be present, and to look to the preserving and mending the Books of the Quire and Register, and to keep the common Seal and Key of the Library; to him was allotted the Prebend of *St. Mary in Sanda*, and Vicarage of *Sanda*. 5. A Treasurer, who was to keep the Treasure of the Church and Sacred Vestments, and to have a care of the Bread, Wine, Wax, Oyland Lights, for the Church; to him was allotted the Rectory of *St. Nicholas in Stronsa*, and Vicarage of *Stronsa*. 6. A Subdean, who was to supply the place of the Provost, in his absence; to him was allotted the Personage of *Hoy*, and Vicarage of *Waes*. 7. A Subchantor, who was bound to Play on the Organs each Lord's Day and Festivals, and to supply the place of the Chantor, in his absence; to him was allotted the Prebend of *St. Colm*.

Likewise he erected Seven other Canons and Prebendaries, to wit, 1. The Prebendary of *Holy-cross*; to him was given the Personage of *Crosskirk in Sanda*; he was to be a special keeper of Holy

Holy things under the Treasurer, and was to take care of the Clock and Ringing of the Bells at Hours appointed, and to take care that the Floor of the Church was cleanly swept. 2. The Prebendary of *St. Mary*; to whom was given the Chaplainry of *St. Mary* and Vicarage of *Evie*; he was to have a care of the Roof and Windows of the Cathedral, and to have them helped if need were. 3. The Prebendary of *St. Magnus*, to whom was allotted the Prebend of *St. Magnus*; he was to be Confessor of the Households of the Bishop, Provost, Canons and Chaplains, and their Servants in the time of *Easter*, and to administer the Eucharist to them. The 4th. Prebendary was to have the Chaplainry of *St. John* the Evangelist, in the said Cathedral Church. The 5th. Prebendary was to have the Chaplainry of *St. Lawrence*. The 6th. was to have the Prebend of *St. Katharine*. And the 7th. Prebendary was to have the Prebend of *St. Duthas*. To which seven Dignities and seven Prebendaries, he moreover assigned and allotted (besides the former Churches and Titles) the Rents and Revenues of the Personages

nages of *St. Colm* in *Waes*, and *Holy-cross* in *Westra*; as also the Vicarages of the Parish Churches of *Sandwick* and *Stromnes*, with their pertinents for their daily Distributions.

Besides these, he erected thirteen Chaplains; to the first was allotted the Chaplainry of *St. Peter*, and he was to be Master of the Grammar School: To the second was allotted the Chaplainry of *St. Augustin*, and he was to be Master of the Singing-School: The third was to be *Stellarius* or the Bishop's Choirister. The fourth the Provost Choirister. The fifth the Archdeacons. The sixth the Precentors. The seventh the Chancellors. The eighth the Treasurers. The ninth the Subdeans. The tenth the Prebendaries of *Holy-cross*. The eleventh the Prebendaries of *St. Mary*. The twelfth the Prebendaries of *St. Katharine*. The thirteenth the Chaplains of *Holy-cross*. Every one of these Choiristers were to have twenty four Meils of Corn, and ten Merks of Money for their Stipend yearly, besides their daily distributions, which were to be raised from the Rents of the Vicarage of the Cathedral Church, and from the foundation of *Thomas* Bishop of *Ork-*

ney,



ney, and of the twelve Pounds left by King *James III.* and King *James IV.* Kings of *Scotland.* To these he added a Sacrist, who was to ring the Bells, and light the Lamps, and carry in Water and Fire to the Church, and to go before the Processions with a white Rod, after the manner of a Beadle; and for this he was to have the accustomed Revenue, together with forty Shillings from the Bishop yearly.

He moreover ordained six Boys, who were to be Taper-bearers, and to sing the Responsories and Verses in the Chaire, as they were to be ordered by the Chanter. Of which six Boys, one was to be nominate and maintain'd by the Bishop; the second by the Prebendary of *St. Magnus*; the third by the Prebendary of *St. John*; the fourth by the Prebendary of *St. Lawrence*; the fifth by the Prebendary of *St. Katharine*; the sixth by the Prebendary of *St. Duthas*: And every one of them was to have, besides their Maintenance, twenty Shillings *Scots* a Year. To every one of the foresaid Dignities, Canons, and Prebendaries, he assigned certain Lands in *Kirkwall* for their Dwelling Houses.

The Charter of this erection is dated at *Kirkwall, October 28. Anno 1544*; and in the following Year it was confirmed by another Charter granted by *David Beaton* Cardinal of *St. Stephen* in *Mount Celio*, and Archbishop of *St. Andrews*, having Authority so to do. It is dated at *Stirling*, the last of *June*, and eleventh Year of Pope *Paul* the Third; and confirm'd by Queen *Mary*, at *Edinburgh*, the last of *April*, Anno Regni 13.

In this condition the Church stood as long as Popery continued, but the Reformation coming in, and *Robert Stewart*, Earl of *Orkney*, having obtain'd the Bishoprick from Bishop *Bothwell*, in exchange for the Abbacy of *Holyrood-house*, he became Lord of the whole Country, and he and his Son Earl *Patrick*, who succeeded him, did in the Church what they pleas'd.

At last *James Law* being made Bishop of *Orkney*, and the Earldom being united to the Crown (by the death and forefaulture of the foresaid *Patrick*, Earl of *Orkney*, as we shall have occasion to speak more of in the 8th Chapter) he, with the consent of his Chapter, made  
a Con-

a Contract with King *James VI.* In which they resign to the King, and his Successors, all their Ecclesiastical Lands and Possessions, with all Rights and Securities belonging thereto, to be incorporated and united to the Crown, especially by such as should be thought necessary to be united to it; and the King gives back and disposes to the Bishop several Lands in the Parishes of *Ham, Orphir, Stromnes, Sandwick, Shapinsay, Waes, Hoy, St. Ola,* and of *Evie, Burra,* and *Flotta*, to be a Patrimony to the Bishop and his Successors for ever; disposing moreover to him and his Successors the Right of Patronage, to present to all the Vicarages of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, with power to them to present qualify'd Ministers as oft as any Church should vake. Disposing also to them the heretable and perpetual Right and Jurisdiction of Sheriffship and Bailiffry within the Bishoprick and Patrimony thereof, exeeming the Inhabitants and Vassals of the Bishoprick, in all Causes, Civil and Criminal, from the Jurisdiction of the Sheriff or Steward of the Earldom. As also he gave to the Bishop and his Successors the Commissariat of *Orkney* and

and *Zetland*, with power to constitute and ordain Commissars or Chancellors, Clerks, and other Members of Court. This contract was made *Anno 1614*; and in the Year following, by an act of Platt, dated at *Edinburgh* the 22d of *November*, the several Dignities and Ministers both in the Bishoprick and Earldom, were provided to particular Maintenances (besides what they were in possession of before) payable by the King and Bishop to the Ministers in their several bounds respective. And as it was agreed by that Contract, and determin'd by that Act of Platt, so are they provided for at this present.

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## C H A P. VII.

*Of the Plantation of the Christian Faith  
in Orkney; and of the Bishops there-  
of.*

**N**icephorus writing that Simon Ze-  
lotes, after he had preached the  
Gospel in several other Kingdoms, came  
at last *ad occidentalem oceanum insulasq;*  
*Britannicas* (by which Orkney must be  
especially understood) and there Preach-  
ed the Gospel. Whatever truth may  
be in that, yet it is certain, That the  
Christian Faith was greatly promoted  
in this Country about the beginning of  
the Fifth Century (*Eugenius II.* being  
then King of Scotland) at which time  
*Palladius* being sent by Pope *Celestin* to  
Purge that Kingdom of the Heresie of  
*Pelagius* that had infected it. He Insti-  
tuted,

I. *Servanus* (call'd St. Serf in the Ca-  
lender) Bishop of Orkney, that he might  
instruct the Inhabitants of these Isles in  
the Faith of Christ, which *Polyd. Virgil*  
says



says he did very carefully. He was a Man of Eminent Devotion and Piety, and Master of the famous *Kenti-gern*, whom he used to call *Mongah* (which, in the Norish Tongue, signifieth, Dear Friend) which afterwards became the Name by which he was usually called. From him there has been a continual Succession of Bishops in this Country; but by reason of the many alterations that fell out in it, and the loss of ancient Records, his Successors for many years are not known, yet in History we read of these that follow.

2. *William* Bishop of *Orkney*, who liv'd in the time of King *Robert* the Third.

3. *Thomas* who liv'd in the time of King *James* the First.

4. *William Tulloch*, who was Bishop of this Country in the time of King *James* the Third; of him we read, that *Anno* 1468, he was sent, with several other Noble Persons, to *Christiern* King of *Denmark* and *Norway*, to seek his Daughter, the Lady *Margaret*, in Marriage to the said King *James*. About *July* they came to *Hafnen* in *Denmark*,  
where

where King *Christiern* then remained, and were of him joyfully received and well heard concerning their Sute; inso-much, that, by advice of his Council, he agreed that the Lady *Margaret* should be given in Marriage to King *James*, and that the Isles of *Orkney* and *Zetland* should remain in the Possession of him and his Successors, Kings of *Scotland*, till either the said King *Christiern* or his Successors in Name of Dowry should pay to King *James*, or his Successors, the Sum of Fifty thousand Florins of the *Rhine*. Upon this the Bishop and the other Ambassadors return with the espoused Lady to *Scotland* in *November*, and in the Abbey Church at Holyrood-house, She was Married and Crowned Queen. Afterwards she was brought to Bed of a Son, call'd *James* (who afterwards succeeded to the Crown) whereupon *Christiern*, to congratulate the happy Birth of this young Prince, his Grandchild, renounced, by a Charter under his Great Seal, all the Right, Title and Claim, which he or the Kings of *Denmark* might have to the Isles of *Orkney* and *Zetland*. This Bishop was translated from this to the  
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Bishoprick of *Murray*, and continued five Years Bishop of that See, and there dying was buried in *St. Maries* Isle in the Canonry Church of *Elgin*.

5. To him succeeded *Andrew* Bishop of *Orkney*, who also liv'd in the Reign of King *James* the Third, and was Bishop at that time when the Town of *Kirkwall* got their erection into a Royal Burrough, confirm'd by the said King Anno 1486.

6. After him succeeded *Edward Steward*, Bishop of *Orkney*, who liv'd in the Reign of King *James* the Fourth; of him *Boethius* gives a noble Testimony. He enlarged the Cathedral Church to the East all above the Grees.

7. To him succeeded *Thomas* Bishop of *Orkney*, who Endowed something for the maintenance of the Choiristers of the Cathedral.

8. After him was *Robert Maxwell* Bishop of *Orkney*; he caused to be built the Stalls that are in the Cathedral; and it was he that caused found and made those excellent Bells that are in the Steeple of the Cathedral, which, at his own expences were founded in the Castle of *Edinburgh*, in the Year 1528, in the Reign

Reign of King *James* the Fifth, as their inscription bears. The next Year *Anno* 1629, May 18. The Earl of *Cathnes* and the Lord *Sinclar* came with a great Army by Sea into *Orkney* to have taken possession of it, as of a Country to which they pretended some Right, but the People of the Country, under the command of Sir *James Sinclar* (natural Son to *Robert Sinclar*, the last Earl of *Orkney* of that Sirname) encountred the Earl with such courage at a place call'd *Summersdale*, that his Army was wholly discomfited; the Earl himself, with 500 of his Men, being killed, and the Lord *Sinclar*, with all the rest, taken Prisoners. It is said of this Sir *James Sinclar*, that presuming on his merits and the good service he had done the King, by that engagement, begg'd of King *James* the Fifth, then Reigning, the Isles of *Sanda* and *Eda*, which he represented to him then as small Islands, or *Holms*, only fit for Pasture, and upon his Request obtain'd them; which, I conceive, may be the reason why *Buchanan* does not reckon any of these, either *Sanda* or *Eda*, amongst the Isles of *Orkney*, by being deceiv'd with that opinion,

pinion, that they were but Holms, whereas they are amongst the most considerable Islands in this Country; but the King being afterward better informed, and that he had been imposed on by Sir *James*, threatned that his Head should pay for it when he came to *Orkney*; for fear of which, when he heard of the King's Arrival, he cast himself in the Sea, in a place called the *Gloup* of *Linksness*, and was drowned. The King coming in Person to this Country to settle the Troubles and Com-motions that were in it, was nobly entertain'd by the Bishop all the time of his stay, and having put a Guard in the King's and Bishop's Castles (having first visited some of the Western Isles) he returned to *Edinburgh*, taking with him some of the Factious Gentry. At this time also the Town of *Kirkwall* gave such demonstrations of their Affection and Loyalty to their King, that sometime after he ratified their Erection into a Royal Burrough by a new Charter of confirmation *Anno 1536*

9. To him succeeded *Robert Reid* Bishop of *Orkney*, a very deserving Man, of an excellent Wit and great Experience.



ence. He caus'd to be built a stately Tower to the North-end of the Bishop's Palace, where his Statue in a stone is as yet remaining set in the Wall. He greatly enlarged the Cathedral Church, adding three Pillars to the former Fabric, and decorating the entry with a magnificent Porch. He moreover built *St. Olaus Church* in *Kirkwall*, and a large Court of Houses to be a College for the instructing the Youth of this Country in Grammar and Philosophy. He made a new foundation of the Chapter, enlarging the number of Canons, Prebendaries, and other Officers, and settling large and ample Provisions on them, as is set down in the former Chapter. In a Book Dedicated to him by *Adam Senior*, a Monk of the *Cistercian* Order, I find that he had a right to the Monastries of *Beaulie* and *Kinloss*; but whether he had these as Bishop of *Orkney*, or only in *commendam*, I cannot determine.

He was in great credit with his Prince King *James* the Fifth, who consulted him in all his weighty Affairs. In his time he perform'd many Honourable Embassages to the Credit and Benefit

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of his Country. Amongst the rest he was one of those that accompanied the young Queen *Mary* when she was sent into *France* to be Married to the *Dolbin* (afterwards *Francis* the second King of *France*) tho' both in his going and coming he had bad Fortune; for in his going the Ship he was in Perished on the Coast of *France*, near to *Balloigne*, the Bishop and the Earl of *Roths* that was with him hardly escaping by the Ship's Boat: And in his return from the Court of *France* he died at *Diep*, the 14th of September 1558; of whom *Ant. Bardol* gives us this Epigram.

*Quid tentem angusto perstringere carmine*  
(laudes

*Quas nulla eloquii vis celebrare queat?*

*Clarus es eloquio; Cælo, dignissime præsul,*

*Antiqua generis nobilitate viges,*

*Commissumq; gregem pascis relevasq; ja-*  
(centem,

*Exemplo ducens ad meliora tuo;*

*Ac, velut exoriens terris sol discutit umbras,*

*Illustras radiis pectora ceca tuis:*

*Hortaris tardos, objurgas, corripis omnes*

*In mala præcipites, quo vetus error agit:*

*Pauperibus*

*Pauperibus tua tecta patent, tua prompta*  
(*voluntas*

*Atq; bonis semper dextera larga tua est :*  
*Nemo lupos melius sacris ab ovilibus arcet,*  
*Ni Christi lanient diripiantq; gregem.*

10. The Reformation being set afoot about this time, there succeeded to him *Adam Bothwel* Bishop of *Orkney*, the first Reform'd Bishop of this Country, and who continued long in his Bishoprick notwithstanding of the prejudice that the Church had then to that Order.

This Bishop was a Man of great employment and action; it was he that Married the Earl of *Bothwel*, then made Duke of *Orkney*, with the Queen in the Palace of *Holyrood-House*. To him Queen *Mary*, when she had resigned the Crown, gave a Procuration for the inaugurating the Prince her Son; who accordingly, on the 29th of *July* 1567, Crowned and Anointed him in the Church of *Sterling*: And in the Year following, when the Earl of *Murray* Regent; was to go to *England*, about the debate betwixt the King and his Mother (who was detained Prisoner there.) This Bishop was one of those, who, by the

Estates of the Kingdom, were Com-  
missioned to attend the Regent, and as-  
sist him in that debate. And after-  
wards, at the desire of Queen *Eliza-  
beth*, Anno 1571, he, with others were  
sent into *England*, for the composing  
of some differences between the King-  
doms.

He made an exchange of the Bishop-  
rick of *Orkney*, with *Robert Steward*,  
natural Son to King *James* the Fifth,  
then Earl of *Orkney*, for the Abbacy  
of *Holyrood-House*, whereby it came to  
pass, that the Bishop's Son afterwards  
was made Lord *Holyrood-House*, *Robert  
Steward* being Earl of *Orkney*, and also  
obtaining the Bishoprick of *Orkney*, as  
is said, by the exchange of the Abba-  
cy of *Holyrood-House* which he before  
possessed, he and his Son Earl *Patrick*  
who succeeded him, uplifted the Rents  
of the Bishoprick as their own Here-  
ditary Patrimony. The Church of *Ork-  
ney* in the mean time (according to the  
custom then received in *Scotland*) be-  
ing governed by a Superintendant,  
with Episcopal Power to direct all  
Church Censures, and Ordain Ministers.

11. This Superintendant was Mr. *James Annan*, at that time Minister of the Churches of *Sanda* and *Westra*.

But Anno 1606, King *James* the Sixth, by consent of his Parliament and assembly of the Church, having restored the Estates of Bishops in *Scotland*.

12. *James Law* was made Bishop of *Orkney*, and tho' for some time he was deprived of the Temporalities of his Bishoprick, by the Oppression of *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney*, yet after his death he enjoy'd them peaceably. Considering the many and great Quarrels and Mischiefs that had always been between the former Earls and Bishops of *Orkney*, and their several Vassals, because their Lands did lie mixed thorough other; therefore he made that Transaction and Contract with King *James* the Sixth, of which, in the last Chapter, you have had an Account; whereby the Bishoprick is separated from the Earldom, and the Bishop is made sole Judge within his own bounds. He was a Person who King *James* did much respect, and often employ in several important Matters. After his Election to the Bishoprick, he was, with

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some other Prelates, sent for by the King to Court, to advise with them about settling the State of the Church in *Scotland*. And the next Year we find him presiding in the Convocation or Assembly at *Linlithgow*. He had a chief hand in the Tryal of those Oppressions and Treasonable Acts, for which *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney* was Executed. After he had sat Bishop nine Years, he was translated from this See to the Archbishoprick of *Glasgow*.

13. To him succeeded *George Graham* Bishop of *Dumblane*, who sat Bishop of *Orkney* twenty three Years; but in the Year 1638, at the Assembly at *Glasgow*, he resign'd his Bishoprick.

14. After Bishop *Graham* had been divested of the Bishoprick, King *Charles* the First did promote *Robert Barron*, Doctor and Professor of Divinity in the Marishal College of *Aberdeen* to the Bishoprick of this Country; but he being forced to fly to *Berwick*, he there died before his Consecration. In the Interval of Presbytery the Rents of the Bishoprick were granted to the City of *Edinburgh* till the Year 1662.

15. In which Year Episcopacy being again restor'd *Thomas St. Serf* (who seems to have his name from *Servanus*, the first Bishop of *Orkney*, commonly call'd *St. Serf*) formerly Bishop of *Galloway*, and the only old Bishop who was then alive, was made Bishop of *Orkney*; he liv'd two years after his Installment, and died at *Edinburgh*.

16. To him, *Anno 1664*, succeeded *Andrew Honyman*, Archdeacon of *St. Andrews*, a Godly and Learned Prelate, the Author of *The Seasonable Case and Survey of Napthalie*; he repaired the Church of *Sandvick*, and did many other works of Charity. *Anno 1669*, being at *Edinburgh*, and going into the Archbishop of *St. Andrew's* Coach with him, he was shot thorough the Arm with a poisoned Ball, which by the Phanaticks was designed for the Archbishop; this so weakened him that he liv'd not many years after, for he died in *February 1676*, in great peace, and with great resignation, contrary to what is asserted in a late scandalous Pamphlet, as is ready to be attested, if need were, by several Gentlemen of untainted Reputation, Witnesses when he died.

17. To him succeeded *Murdoch Mackenzie*, Bishop of *Murray*, translated from that See to this, *Anno* 1677, a most worthy Bishop, and greatly beloved of all for his Hospitality, Peaceableness, Piety, and prudent Government; he did on his own Charges repair the Lady Church in *Shapinsha*. He liv'd to a good Age, being near an hundred Years, and yet great was his vigour of Body and Vivacity of Judgment, even to his Death; but to the regret of all that knew him, and the loss of the whole Country. He died *February* 1688.

18. To him *Anno* 1688, succeeded *Andrew Bruce*, formerly Bishop of *Dunkeld*. He died last *March*.

C H A P. VIII.

*The History of the first Plantation of the Isles of Orkney; and of the ancient and present Possessors of them. The Pights or Picts the first Possessors. Of Belus and Ganus Kings of Orkney. When it came to the Possession of the Kings of Scotland. When the Norwegians got footing, and when they were expell'd. An Account of the Earls of Orkney. Of the Sirname of Sinclair. A double of an ancient Manuscript relating to the Affairs of Orkney; wherein there is an Account of the first Possessors of that Country, different from the former, and a full Account of the Earls of Orkney till that time. Of Bothwell Duke of Orkney. Of the Earls of the Sirname of Steward and Douglass. When this Country was again re-annex'd to the Crown. Of the Stewardry. The several ways how Orkney hath been a Honorary Title. Of the Law-right-men and their Office.*

**T**HE first Planters and Possessors of this Country were the *Pights*, as the generality of our Historians do affirm,

affirm, who call Orkney, *Antiquum Pictorum regnum*. There are yet in this Country several strange Antique Houses, many of which are now overgrown with Earth, which are still by the Inhabitants call'd *Pights* Houses; and the Firth that runs betwixt this Country and *Cathnes*, is still from them called *Pightland-Firth*, i. e. the Firth that runs by the Land of the *Pights*. Tho' *Buchanan*, to establish his opinion, would rather have it call'd, *Fretum Penthlandicum*, from *Penthus*, a Man of his making.

These Verses of the Poet *Claudian*.

— *Maduerunt Saxone fuso*

*Orcades*; *incaluit pictorum Sanguine Thule*, do evidently prove that the *Pights*, or some other Colony of the German Nation, particularly the *Saxons*, at that time were the Possessors and Inhabitants of these Northern Isles: And to this Day many of the Inhabitants use the *Norns*, which has yet the greatest affinity with the old Gothick Language, not much differing from the Teutonic, which is supposed to be the Language the *Pights* used. Besides the Surnames of the ancient Inhabitants of this Country



try are of a German Original, as the *Seaters* are so called from *Seater*, one of the old German Idols, which they worshipped for *Saturn*; the *Taits* from *Twitsh*, i. e. the Dutch who got that name from *Twiso*, the Son of *Noe* and *Tythea*, the famous Progenitors of the Germans; the *Keldas*, from the ancient *Culdees* or *Kelders*, who (as *Spotswood* thinks) were the ancient Priests or Ministers of the Christian Religion amongst the *Pights*, so called because they lived in Cells; the *Backies* from some small running Water, which, in the ancient Teutonick, is call'd *Backie*: So the names that end in *stane*, which are very frequent in this Country, as *Hourstane*, *Corstane*, *Torstane*, *Beistane*, &c. which is a Pictish or Teutonick termination of Sirname, signifying the superlative degree of comparison; and many more reasons might be added, if it were needful, to shew that the Pictish Blood is, as yet, in this Country, and that that People were the first Possessors of it.

These *Pights*, as is generally acknowledged, were of a German descent, coming, at first, from that part of *Germany* that borders on the Baltick Sea, where,  
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at present, are the Dukedoms of *Mec-  
kleburgh* and *Pomerania*. They were  
so called because they were notable  
Warriours and Fighters; their true  
Name (as *Verstegan* says) being *Phigh-  
tian*; that is, *Phighters* or *Fighters*. They  
were by the Romans call'd *Picts*, tho'  
some of them call'd them *Pictavi*, and  
might have been so called of them, ei-  
ther from some resemblance of that name  
of *Phightian* that they took to them-  
selves, or from their singular Beauty  
and comely Form, as if they had been  
a painted People; and so *Boethius*, in  
his character of them, puts both these  
properties together, saying of them,  
*Quod erant corporibus robustissimis can-  
didisq;*. The like saith *Verstegan* of them,  
That they were tall and strong of Bo-  
dy, and of a very fair Complexion; and  
so it is to this day; there being no  
People in *Scotland* that more resemble  
the *Pights* in these qualities, than the  
generality of the *Orkney* Men and Wo-  
men do, being generally strongly built,  
and very beautiful and lovely. Or the  
Romans might have call'd them *Picts*,  
because, being a People much delighting  
in Wars, they had their Shields paint-  
ed

ed with divers colours, for *Alex. ab Alex. Lib. 2. gen. dierum Cap. 22.* observes, That it was the way of the German Nation so to do, saying, *Germani scuta lectissimis coloribus distinxere*: Though I think it more probable they were called so, because to make themselves more terrible to their Enemies, they used to paint their Bodies with the Images of different Beasts, or imprint them on their Flesh with some Iron Instruments, which has given occasion to *Claudian* to say of them.

—— *Ferroq; notatas*

*Perlegit exanimis Picto moriente Figuras.*

But at what time these *Pights* first planted these Isles is somewhat controverted by our Historians. Some say that in the Year of the World 4867, the *Pights* having left their native Country, to seek out some new Habitation to themselves, came first to *Orkney*, where they left a Colony to plant the Country, and then with their main body Ferrying over *Pightland-Firth*, and passing thorough *Cathnes*, *Ross*, *Murray*, *Marr* and *Angus*, at last settled themselves in *Fife* and *Lothian*, which, from them, by our

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Writers, is call'd *Pictlandia*. Others think that the *Pights* did not settle here till the time of *Reuther* King of Scots ; at which time the Scots by an intestine division warring upon one another, each party being assisted by considerable numbers of the *Pights* ; they fought so desperately, that besides *Gethus* King of the *Pights*, the greatest number of both the Scots and Pictish Nobility were killed, together with many thousands of the Commons of both Nations ; which great slaughter, with the Invasion of the *Britains* at that time, constrained the *Pights* (who perceived themselves unable to resist them) to fly to the more Northern parts of the Kingdom, and so to *Orkney*, where they abode for a time, and made *Gothus*, the Brother of the foresaid *Gethus*, their King ; and after some years having left some few of their number to People and Plant this Country, they returned to *Lothian*, and having expell'd the *Britains*, settled themselves again in their ancient Possessions.

This Country being thus planted, the People grew and multiplied, and, for a long time, were governed by Kings  
of

of their own, after the manner of the *Pights* and other Nations. There is still a place in this Country, that by reason of its name and antique Form would seem to be the residence of some of these Kings; it is call'd *Coninsgar*, or the King's House; 'tis in the Parish of *Sandwick* in the Mainland; but the memory and actions of these Kings are, by the injury of Time and carelessness of our Writers, bury'd in silence; so that only we find mention made of these two, *Belus* King of *Orkney*; *Holinsbed* calls him *Bladus*, and *Boethius* *Balus*; but it is more probable he was called *Belus*; for there is at this time still remaining a Stone in the Church of *Birsa* (where probably the King had his principal residence, as to this day one of the Earls chiefest Palaces is remaining) having this name *Belus* engraven on it in very odd ancient characters, which has probably been taken from some ancient Buildings thereabouts. This Prince, upon what provocation is not recorded, levied an Army, and crossing *Pightland-Firth*, Invaded *Cathnes* and *Ross*, making Prey of all he met with; but *Ewen* the second being at that time King of  
of



of *Scotland*, hearing of this Invasion; came with his Army so unexpectedly upon him, and assaulted him so vigorously, that he put his Soldiers to flight, a great many escaping by Boat; but *Belus* himself was put to that strait that he flew himself, lest he should fall into his Enemies hands.

After him we read of another King of *Orkney*, call'd *Ganus*, in the time of *Caratacus* King of *Scots*; and of him it is reported, by *Boethius*, that he, with his Wife and Children, were carry'd Captives to *Rome* by *Claudius Cæsar* when he went from *Britain*; and *Hermannus Shedel* in his general History of the several Ages of the world, speaking of the Emperor *Claudius*, says, *Quod insulas Orchades Romano adjecit imperio; sexto quo profectus erat mense Romam rediit & triumphavit maximo apparatu.* This *Juvenal* takes notice of when he says in his second Satyr,

(captas

*Littora Juvernæ promovimus, & modo*  
*Orcadas, & minima contentos nocte Bri-*  
(tannos.

A little

A little after this the *Romans* had not such cause to triumph over *Orkney*; for when *Agricola* was their General in *Britain Anno Christi* 87, as *Henry Isaacson* computes it in his *Chronological Tables*; he sent a Navy to sail about *Britain*, to discover the largeness of it, and whether it was an Island or not; and after they had coasted many days towards the North, they came at last in sight of *Orkney* (which *Tacitus*, for want of better information, imagines to be unknown before that time) but fearing to pass thorough *Pightland-Firth* for fear of Shallows, they seized some of the Country People that liv'd in the next Islands, constraining them to go aboard and pilot them thorough the Firth; but they suspecting that the *Romans* had a hostile design on their Country, not caring for their own Lives, they enter'd the Strait at such an inconvenient time, that the Ships were born with the violence of the stream against Rocks and Shelves in such a manner, that they were all almost torn, broke and lost without recovery, only some few of the Navy that were not so hasty to follow, perceiving the sad loss of their fellows, re-

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turned

turned by the same way they came and reported these lamentable Tidings to *Agricola*: And indeed there is a place in *Shapinsba*, over-against which are impetuous Tides and dangerous Shallows at this day, call'd *Agricola*; but whether it got that name from this accident I am not able to determine.

But yet it seems that *Orkney* was a considerable thing in the Eyes of the Romans: For *Polyd. Virgil. lib. 3. Ang. Historia*, speaking of the division of the Empire among the Sons of *Constantine* the Great, reckons *Orkney* amongst the famous Kingdoms that fell to the share of his Son *Constantine*; says he, *Huic sorte evenit Britannia cum Gallia, Hispania & Orchadibus.*

This Country it's like continued thus under the Government of their own Princes, till the fatal Ruine and Subversion of the Pictish Kingdom in *Scotland*, in the Year 839; at which time *Keneth* the second, that Martial King of Scots having in many Battles overthrown the *Picts*, at last expell'd them out of all *Scotland*, seizing on *Fife* and *Lothian*, and the other large Territories that they had therein; he pursued them

## *Islands of Orkney.* 115

them to *Orkney*, vanquishing these Isles and adding them to his other Dominions.

*Orkney* being thus annex'd to the Crown of *Scotland*, it continued many years under the Government of the Scottish Kings and their Lieutenants, till about the Year 1099, at which time *Donald Bain*, Lord of the Isles, having usurped the Crown, and caused himself to be proclaimed King of *Scotland*; and being thereupon hardly put to it by the injur'd Heir and discontented Nobility, that he might not lose what he had unjustly usurped, he invited *Magnus* King of *Norway* to come to his assistance, with an offer of the Isles for his pains; who coming with his Navy Invaded *Orkney* and the Western Isles, putting Garrisons in all convenient places.

By this means the *Norwegians* got possession of this Country, who held it for the space of 164 years, when they came to lose all again upon this occasion: *Anno* 1263, *Alexander* the Third being then King of *Scotland*, *Atbo* (by some called *Hagin*) King of *Norway*, hoping from the divisions that were then in the Kingdom, and the Famine

that was then fore pressing the Land, to make some further conquest in *Scotland*, he comes with a great Navy and Army of *Danes* and *Norwegians* to the West Isles, and conquers *Arran* and *Bute* (which were the only Isles at that time under the dominion of the *Scots*) and from this success hoping for greater matters, he lands on the Continent and takes in the Town and Castle of *Air*. But King *Alexander* having assembled a great Army, assaults him in Battle at *Largis*, kills his Nephew, a Man of great Renown, and after a great Slaughter of his Soldiers (to the number of twenty four thousand) puts the remainder to flight. Immediately upon this defeat King *Acho* hears of another sad loss; namely, That his Fleet by a Storm were all cast away and broken against the Rocks, except four in which he presently embarked and fled away to *Orkney*; being come thither, he sent to *Norway* and *Denmark* for a new Army and Fleet, with an intention again to Invade *Scotland* the next Summer; but he died the beginning of the following Year, *January 22, Anno 1264*, and was bury'd in that place where  
the



the Cathedral now stands, under a Marble Stone which is seen to this day, and goes under the name of his Monument.

After his death King *Alexander* Invaded the *Isle of Man*, and the Western Isles, which, after some opposition, he recover'd, and intending to make the like attempt for the recovery of *Orkney* and *Zetland*; there came Ambassadors to him from *Magnus* King of *Norway* and *Denmark*, who succeeded *Acho* in these Kingdoms; after several Treaties it was at last condescended upon that King *Alexander* should pay to the King of *Norway* the Summ of 4000 Merks Sterling, with the Summ of 100 Merks by year; and that for this *Magnus* King of *Norway* should quit all Right that he might pretend to the Isles of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, and the other Isles of *Scotland*, which accordingly he did, by Letters under his Great Seal, renouncing and giving over all Right and Claim that he had or might have both for him and his Successors to these and all the other Isles of *Scotland*; and, for the better confirmation hereof, a Marriage was agreed upon betwixt the Lady

*Margaret*, Daughter to *Alexander* and *Hangananus* (or *Haningo* or *Aquin* as others call him) Son to King *Magnus*, both Children, to be completed when they came to a Marriagable Estate.

*Orkney* being in this manner recover'd from the hands of the *Danes* and *Norwegians*, it continued ever after annexed to the Crown of *Scotland*; King *Alexander* giving the property of it to a Nobleman surnamed *Speire*, Earl of *Cathnes*, whose Son *Magnus Speire* Earl of *Cathnes*, *Orkney* and *Zetland*, was in great repute in the days of King *Robert Bruce*.

But he dying without Heirs Male, his Daughter *Elizabeth Speire* succeeded him in the Estate, and was Married to Sir *William Sinclar*, who accompany'd Sir *James Douglass* when he went to accompany the *Bruces* Heart to *Jerusalem*. He was great Grandchild to *Willielmus de Sancto claro*, second Son to *Valdosius* Earl of *Saint Claire* in *France*. This Sir *William Sinclar*, by his Wife *Elizabeth Speire*, had a Son call'd *William* also, who was made Earl of *Orkney* and *Zetland* by King *David Bruce*. He was first Marry'd to *Florentina*, Daughter  
to

to the King of *Denmark*, and after her death was Marry'd to *Jane Halyburton*, Daughter to *Walter Lord Dirleton*.

To him succeeded *Henry Sinclar*, usually call'd Prince of *Orkney*; he was also made Duke of *Oldenburgh* by *Christiern* the first King of *Denmark*. He Marry'd *Geils* or *Egidia Dowglass* Daughter to *William Dowglass* Lord of *Niddisdale*, and of *Geils Stewart* Daughter to King *Robert* the Second. So much was he favour'd by King *Robert* the Third, that when he was to send his Son Prince *James* (afterward King *James* the First) to *France*, he appointed this *Henry*, Prince of *Orkney*, to be his Governor, who taking Ship with him at the *Bass*, came as far as *Flamburgh-head*, but by reason of the Sicknes and Indisposition of the young Prince, they were necessitated to land, and so were both detain'd Prisoners by the English. He had a Daughter call'd *Beatrix Sinclar*, who was Marry'd to *James* the gross Earl of *Douglafs*: And in the Inscription that is on her Tomb at *Douglafs*, her Father, the Earl of *Orkney*, is stil'd Lord of the Isles, and Lord *Sinclar*.

To him succeeded his Son *William Sinclair*, Earl of *Orkney* and *Zetland*; he Marry'd *Elizabeth Douglass*, Daughter to *Archibald* Earl of *Douglass*, surnamed *Fineman*, by whom he had a Daughter that afterwards was Marry'd to *Alexander* Duke of *Albany*, second Son to King *James* the Second. In the *Douglass* History we find a Note of this Earl's Titles, viz. Prince of *Orkney*, Duke of *Oldenburgh*, Earl of *Cathnes*, Lord *Sinclar*, Lord of *Niddisdale*, with the Valleys of *Neth*, *Sheris* of *Dumfreis*, great Admiral of *Scotland*, Warden of the *Marches*, great Justice General, Baron of *Erkefoord*, *Caverton*, *Cousland*, *Rosline*, *Pentland*, *Harbartshire*, *Dysart*, and *Newburgh* in *Buchan*. He was questionless a Man of great power and eminence, and very intimate with King *James* the Second, whom he follow'd and assisted in all his difficulties, and by him was made Lord Chancellor of the Kingdom and Lieutenant after that Office was taken from the Earl of *Douglass*. And from that same King he got a confirmation of the Earldom of *Cathnes* united into a Baronry with his Lands of *Orkney*, in compensation of his claim to

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the Lordship of *Niddisdale*, and of other Offices and Pensions that he pretended to as being Son to *Geils Douglass* Daughter to *William Douglass* Lord of *Niddisdale*, and of *Geils Stewart* Daughter to King *Robert* the Second, by his Wife *Elizabeth Muir*. This confirmation is dated *April 29, Anno 1436*.

The following Paper I transcrib'd from an ancient Manuscript, now in the hands of the Reverend Mr. *Robert Norry* Minister of *Dundee*. By the Characters and way of Writing it seem'd to be of the Age it relates to, *viz.* 1403, tho' in some things it differs from the Account you have had before; yet because this may be more likely, and that it gives a better Account of the Earls of this Country, I thought it might not be unacceptable to the curious.

*Quoniam inter ceteras hujus fluctuantis seculi curas & sollicitudines, pensata temporum, morum ac hominum in hac lacrimarum valle, labilitate & brevitate, testante venerabili illo Cronographo Martino, Domini nostri pape Penetentiario & Capellano, necesse videtur de congruo extrahere progenitorum, regum, principum & aliorum*



& aliorum preclarorum genealogias per quas  
 mundus iste transitorius regitur, Reges  
 regnant & principes gubernant signantq;  
 in deductionem & agnitionem veritatis,  
 quo ad eorundem successionem veresimili-  
 ter evenire speratur. Illustri ergo & ex-  
 cellentissimo Domino nostro, principi su-  
 premo, Norwegie regi, suisq; successoribus,  
 satrapis, patriciis, consulibus & proceri-  
 bus dicti regni, Thomas Dei & Aposto-  
 lice sedis gracia Episcopus Orcadie &  
 Zetlandie, Canonici Ecclesie Cathedralis  
 sancti magni Martyris gloriosissimi, legi-  
 fer, ceteriq; proceres, nobiles populus ac  
 communitas ejusdem, gracia, pax, caritas,  
 gaudium longanimitas, misericordia a Deo  
 Patre omnipotente & a Jesu Christo in  
 spiritu sancto. In omnibus vobis per quem  
 reges regnant & in cujus manu corda sunt  
 regum cum omni subjectione, humilitate  
 & obediencia prompti & parati vestram in  
 Jesu Christi visceribus zelantes & sicien-  
 tes salutem in caritate non ficta. Re-  
 quirentes ut in dicendis in nostra simpli-  
 citate vestra suppleat regia sublimitas, &  
 quia scimus firmiter & longi temporis  
 spacio, efficax rerum magistra, nos expe-  
 rientia docuit, quod in dubium non revo-  
 camus qualiter erga Comites Orcadie re-  
 galis

galis ipsa sublimitas, zelum semper exuberantem exercuit, Quamobrem firmam spem gerimus, plenamq; fiduciam obtineamus quod illa regia majestas verba nostra benegne recipiat, diligenter intelligat & effective prosequatur, ut infra pectoris claustrum solícite considerare convenit ipsa regia sinceritas & diligenter attendere, quod adulatorium vestre serenitati aliquid non scribimus, quod secundum Petrum Blessensem in suo prologo canentem, Olei venditores esse non intendimus, sed patefactiones veritatis.

Ergo arbitramur pium esse & meritorium, testimonium perhibere veritati ne veritas occultetur, presertim illa per quam innocenti possit prejudicium generari, & cum uterq; reus est qui veritatem occultat & mendacium dicit, quia ille prodesse non iste nocere desiderat quod a nobis Deus avertat, potissime cum in dicendis per quondam re-colende memorie Erici vestri predecessoris regis nostri admoniti patientes literas fuisset testimonium perhibere veritati prout lacius in sequentibus patebit. Hinc est quod nos Thomas Episcopus, Capitulum, Cononici, Legifer, ceteriq; procures, nobiles, populus, communitas sive plebei antedicti, coram Deo in  
fide

*fide ac fidelitate quibus vestre regie Majestati tenemur astricti fideliter attestamus & ad perpetuam rei memoriam deducimus fidemq; facimus vobis & omnibus presentibus & futuris. Jesu Christi fidelibus sancte matris ecclesie filiis in forma & effectū subsequentibus. Coram nobis congregatus, comparens magnificus & prepotens Dominus, Dominus Willielmus de Sancto Claro Comes Orcadie Dominus le Sinclair in ecclesia sancti magni martyris in Orcadia proposuit in hunc modum; supposuit enim quod nobis bene & ad plenum cognita res fuisset, quo modo magnis retroactis temporibus antecessores sui & progenitores ac ipsi Orcadie comites juste ac juridice, inconcusse, linialiter & gradatim jure hereditario comitatui Orcadie superdicto successerant ac illam per tempora magna & longeva nulla aliena generatione interveniente, quietissime possederant. Et qualiter diverse carte, evidencie, instrumenta, libri censuales & alia diversa probacionum genera fuerant igne consumpta, deperdita & alienata, hostilitatis tempore & guerrarum, emulorum inimicorumq; nonnullorum, defectu & carencia firmissime domus seu municionis inexpugnabilis ubi hujusmodi collocarentur;*

tur; subjunxit idem Dominus Comes quod habuit literas quondam supremi Domini nostri Regis Erici illustris, Patentes, quas nobis ostendit & perlegi fecit, precepta continentes subsequencia, scilicet quod si quis nostrum habuerit vel qui habuerint aliquas cartas, evidencias, cirographa, instrumenta, munimenta, codicillos, acta vel privilegiorum literas ad progenitores, antecessores vel ad se spectantes, dictumq; suum comitatum concernentes, quod indilate & sine mora aut contradictione seu obstaculo quibuscunq; eidem Domino comiti deliberaret vel deliberarent, secundum quod ipsius Domini nostri Regis evitare velimus indignacionem. Virtute quarum literarum sicut eadem comitis continebat propositio nos requisivit ut si de hujusmodi antedictis munimentis, aliqua habuissimas in nostris scriniis, Apothecariis, Thecis, Cistis, Archivis seu cartophilaciis, quod ipsam sibi deliberaremus & in casu quo non habuerimus, sed sciremus ab aliis ea haberi quod sibi intimaremus & revelaremus. Et si nec unum nec reliquum sciremus, tunc nos requisivit earundem literarum auctoritate, quatenus nos Deum, justitiam & equitatem pre oculis habentes in declaracionem veritatis velimus sagaciter & studiose mature

ture digestis iterim iterim ac tertio perscrutari scripturas, cronicas, autenticas & approbatas que faciunt fidem illas perlegere, diligenter inspicere, sane concipere & intelligere, ac naturas infeodacionis & ecclesiarum fundaciones perspicue intendere, quibus sic mature rimatis & ad plenum discussis velimus supremo Domino nostro manifestare per genealogias accronicas, autenticas, per quos & a quibus lineater & gradatim idem Willielmus Comes processit & per quanta tempora, legitime, juste, bene & inconcusse predecessores sui & ipse gavisus sunt dicto comitatu cum universis & singulis suis insulis, commoditatibus & justis suis pertinenciis, ne hujusmodi successio ultra debitam procelaretur hominum memoriam. His omnibus sic propositis, avisatis, discussis, digestis mature & ad plenum conceptis & intellectis, habitis prius diversis & singulis hinc inde tractatibus, ad honorem Dei omnipotentis, manifestationem veritatis & obedienciam & reverenciam supremi Domini nostri Regis tanquam filii obediencie preceptarii mandatarii prout decet in his que audivimus a senioribus nostris, deinde que legibus intelleximus & concepimus & ad plenum sano effectu degessimus per libros

Scri-



Scripturas, cronicas regnorum utrorumq;  
 Scocie & Norwegie & progenitorum eo-  
 rundem; sic quod singulariter singuli &  
 universaliter universi, uno animo, una  
 fide, unico consensu & assensu responde-  
 mus fidem ut prefertur & testimonium  
 veritatis facientes universi: superscriptis.  
 Quod universa genera munimentorum,  
 cartarum, evidenciarum & aliarum pro-  
 bacionum species que apud nos erant ob  
 reverentiam supremi Domini nostri dicto  
 Domino Comiti deliberavimus & exhibui-  
 mus ante dictum comitatum concernencia.  
 Sed verum est & in veritate attestamur  
 ex relatione fide dignorum antecessorum  
 & progenitorum nostrorum quod principu-  
 lus & precipuus mansus sive manerium  
 Dominorum Comitum Orcadie fuit diversis  
 temporibus igne combustis & ad nihilum  
 redactus & funditus destructus & patria  
 tota depredata & vastata per emulos nostros  
 & inimicos per quas depredaciones, con-  
 sumpciones & destrucciones firmiter cre-  
 dimus quod principales evidencie, carte  
 & alie patentes, diverse litere fuerunt &  
 sunt alienate & consumpte spectantes &  
 concernentes ad antecessores & progenito-  
 res dicti Domini Comitis defectu unius  
 castri in quo tutissime ipse evidencie, &  
 carte;

carte, & alia patrie jocalia firmissime poterant collocare. Ast quantum ad linealem progressum & gradum successionis dicti Domini Comititis & suorum antecessorum seu progenitorum Comitum Orcadie, nos prenominati superius expressatis, juxta nostrum ingenium, sensum & intellectum perscrutati sumus & mature avisati lucidissime per diversa linguarum genera, Scripturas autenticas & approbatas cronicas scilicet in lingua latina & Norwegica per quas reperimus infeodaciones ecclesiarum nostrarum, genealogias nostras & antecessorum nostrorum, cartis & evidenciis ipsorum & nostrorum manifestantibus & claro stili eloquio testimonium perhibentibus ac fidem facientibus; in quibusdam Cronicis, libris, cartis ac aliis autenticis Scripturis reperimus nomina diversorum comitum Orcadie tempora in feudacionum ipsorum juxta modum & formam sequentem, sed de eorum strenuis & notabilibus operacionibus, gestis, nominibus filiorum filiarumq; suarum, de modo migrandi ab hac luce, de divisione seu unione hereditatis ipsorum, de incremento vel decremento possessionum suarum pro presenti brevitatis causa pretermittimus; & nos ad antiquas, cronicas & genealogias autenticas & approbatas referimus.

Repe-

Reperimus itaq; imprimis quod tempore Haraldi Comati primi Regis norwegie qui gavisus est per totum Regnum suum, hac terra sive insularum patria Orcadie fuit inhabitata & culta duabus nationibus scilicet Peti & Pape que due genera nationes fuerant destructe radicitus ac penitus per norwegenses de stirpe sive de tribu strenuissimi principis Rognaldi, qui sic sunt ipsas nationes aggressi quod posteritas ipsarum nacionum Peti & Pape non remansit. Sed verum est quod tunc non denominabatur Orcadia, sed terra Petorum sicut clare verificatur hodie adhuc cronica attestante, per mare dividens Scociam & Orcadiam quod usq; ad hodiernum diem mare Petlandicum appellatur & sicut pulchre subjungitur in ijsdemronicis Rex iste Haraldus Comatus primo applicuit in Zetlandiam cum classe sua & consequenter in Orcadia & contulit illam Orcadiam & Zetlandiam antedicto principi Rognaldo robusto ex cujus stirpe ut prefertur prefate due nationes, fuerant everse & destructe sicut cronice nostre clare demonstrent a quo quidem Rognaldo processerunt linealiter & gradatim omnes Comites Orcadie & possederunt temporibus suis dictum Comitatum libere sine qua-

K

cunq;

cunq; exactione quocunq; Canone seu sensu, excepto obsequio prestando regibus Norwegie tributi ratione, sicut in clausula sequenti lacius patebit que in Cronica de verbo in verbum continetur. Revera enim usq; hodie illorum posteritatis dominio subjacent excepto quod jure tributario Norwegie regibus deserviunt, Qui quidem princeps Rognaldus strenuissimus hujusmodi comitatum libere & jure donavit cuidam fratri suo Swardo nomine, qui Comes Swardus procreavit quendam filium Gothornum nomine, qui comes Gothornus possedebat dictum Comitatum per unum annum & decessit sine herede legitimo & sic reversus est dictus Comitatus dicto principi Rognaldo, qui pure & libere illum contulit cuidam filio suo Eyward nomine qui postea cognominabatur Turffeid, qui quidem per longa tempora possedebat dictum Comitatum & habundavit opibus & plenus fuit divitijs. Cui successit filius ejus Thurwider Gedclevar cui successit filius ejus Itlanderver cui successit filius ejus Comes Swardus robustus ac corpulentus, magnus & strenuissimus bellifer, Adhuc tamen non fuit regeneratus sacri baptismatis lavacro neq; alij Comites prenominati. In cujus quidem Comitis Swardi diebus supervenit Olaus Thurgonus

Thurgonus Rex illustrissimus de occidentali-  
um partium guerris, cujus induccione co-  
mes ille Swardus una cum gente Orcadie  
devenerunt, Christiani gentilitatis relin-  
quentes errorem. Cui Comiti Swardo suc-  
cessit filius ejus comes Thurfinus procrea-  
tus ex filia quondam excellentissimi Prin-  
cipis Malcomi Regis Scotorum illustris.  
Qui quidem Rex contulit dicto Thurfino  
terras de Cathnes & Sutherland sub unica  
denominatione comitatus in Scotia & illis  
gavissus est una cum comitatu Orcadie Zet-  
landie & pluribus alijs dominijs in Scocie  
Regno jacentibus & vixerat diu & stre-  
nuissimus erat in campis post cujus quidem  
Comitis Thurfini obitum successit sibi ejus  
filius Comes Erlinus primus & iste Erli-  
nus primus genuit Comitem Paulum &  
Erlinum Secundum qui Paulus Comes ge-  
nuit Comitem Hacoïn Comes Erlinus Se-  
cundus procreavit Comitem Magnum glor-  
iosissimum Martyrem patronum Orcadie qui  
sanctissime abiit ab hac luce virgo & mar-  
tyr. Post cujus quidem Magni martiris  
decessum & post obitum Comitis Hacoïn  
successit Comes Rolandus qui primo funda-  
vit Ecclesiam Sancti Magni Martiris, il-  
lamq; magnis possessionibus divicijs & red-  
ditibus dotavit, predictus virq; Sapiencia



& virtute pollebat per plura bona pietatis  
 opera famabatur venerabaturq; & reputa-  
 batur pro sancto viro. Post cujus quidem  
 obitum successit ejus frater Ericus comita-  
 tui Cui successit Comes Haraldus Cui suc-  
 cessit comes Joannes filius ejus, Cui Joanni  
 successit comes magnus Secundus a quo  
 Alexander Scotorum Rex cepit comitatum  
 de Sutherland Cui Magno comiti secundo  
 successit comes Gilbertus primus, cui suc-  
 cessit Comes Gilbertus secundus ejus filius  
 qui gavisus est comitatibus Orcadie &  
 Cathnes in Scotia. Qui quidem Gilbertus  
 secundus procreavit Magnum tertium &  
 quandam filiam Matildam nomine Iste Co-  
 mes Magnus filius Gilberti secundi genuit  
 Comitem Magnum quartum & quondam  
 Joannem & ille Magnus comes quartus ab  
 hac luce abiit sine prole, cui successit Joan-  
 nes ejus frater in antedictis comitatibus  
 Orcadie & Cathnes Joannes iste genuit  
 quendam magnum Comitem quintum. Cui  
 Magno quinto jure Successionis linealiter  
 successit Dominus Malisius comes de Stra-  
 therne in Scotia tanquam heres legitimus  
 Jure hereditario ad utrosq; comitatus Or-  
 cadie & Cathnes sicut clarissime manifestant  
 munimenta, evidencie & carte utrorumq;  
 regnorum Scocie & Norwegie. Qui qui-  
 dem

dem Comes Malisius revera primo desponsavit filiam Comitis de Monteith in Scotia & ex ea genuit filiam Matildam nomine post cujus quidam prime uxoris obitum desponsavit filiam quendam quondam Hugonis Comitis de Rosse & ex ea procreavit quatuor filias & decessit sine masculis sicq; ejus dominia terræ & possessiones fuerant divise inter illas filiam vero antiquiorem ex prima uxore procreatam Matildam scilicet duxit in uxorem Welandus de Ard qui ex ea procreavit quendam filium Alexandrum de Ard qui Alexander Jure Regni Scocie & consuetudine hereditaria successit Comiti Malisio de Strathern in principali manerio sive manso ratione sue matris Comitatus de Cathania & possedebat jure & appellacione Comitis & eadem ratione & eodem jure gavisus est certa per-ticata sive quantitate terrarum Orcadie & gerebat se pro Balivo & Capitaneo gentis Orcadie Norwegie Regis ex parte Idemq; Alexander de Ard tempore suo vendidit & alienavit quondam recolende memorie Domino Roberto Stewart primo Scotorum Regi dictum comitatum de Cathnes mansum sive manerium principale & omnia alia jura spectancia seu concernencia ad se ratione matris ejus tanquam ad antiquiorem sororem jure & consuetudine regnarem

## 134 A Description of the

Scocie cum denominatione comitatus sive  
Comitis Iste vero Alexander finaliter de-  
cessit sine herede de sua corpore quocunq;  
legittimo procreato. Nunc vero vertamus  
stylum ad quatuor filias ex secunda uxore  
procreatas, quarum una desponsata erat cum  
Domino Willielmo de Sancto Claro Do-  
mino le Sinclair qui Dominus Willielmus ex  
ea genuit Dominum Henricum de Sancto  
Claro qui Dominus Henricus desponsavit  
Jonnetam filiam Domini Walteri de Ha-  
liburton Domini de Dirletoun & ex ea  
procreavit Dominum Henricum de Sancto  
Claro secundum qui ultimo decessit comes  
Orcadie indubitatus qui in uxorem habu-  
it venerabilem Dominam Dominam Egidi-  
am filiam filij antedicti quondam Domini  
Roberti Scotorum regis illustris filiamq;  
quandam strenuissimi Domini Willielmi  
de Douglas Domini de nydysdale & ex  
ea procreavit presentem Dominum Wili-  
elmum de Sancto Claro comitem Orcadie,  
Dominum le Sinclare. Quedam alia filia  
secunde uxoris desponsata fuit cum  
quodam milite denominato Here Ginfill  
de Swethrick partibus oriundo, qui vero  
miles in Orcadie partibus venit & jure  
ac ratione sue uxoris gavisus est qua-  
dam parte terrarum Orcadie que quidem  
uxor ab hac luce sine herede migravit  
ligit-

ligittimo ex suo corpore procreato. Tertia vero filia secunde uxoris fuit nupta cum quodam Gothredo nomine Gothorno le Spere qui ex ea procreavit quendam filium Dominum Malisium le Spere militem qui tandem decessit sine herede ligittimo de suo corpore genito similiter & quarta filia decessit sine herede ex suo corpore ligittime procreato Verum iste Dominus Henricus, primus Dominus le Sinclare, ejus matre, Alexandro de Ard & domino Malisio Spere adhuc viventibus ad Dominum nostrum supremum regem Norwegie adivit Hacoïn nomine cum quo rege certas fecit pactiones, condiciones & appunctuamenta per quas reversus est ad Orcadie partes illisq; gavisus est usq; ad extremum vite sue comesq; Orcadie obiit & pro defensione patrie inibi crudeliter ab inimicis peremptus est. Et post decessum istius Henrici comitis primi in Orcadie partibus supervenit dicti Comitis Henrici primi mater filia Domini Malisij Comitis prenominati & ibi fixe remansit usq; post obitum filij ejus Henrici Comitis primi & supervixerat post obitum omnium sororum suarum, filiorum filiarumq; suorum sic quod ipsius antedicti quondam Comitis Henrici primi mater successit omnibus sororibus ejus eorundemq; filiis & fili-

abus tanquam unica & legitima heres comitatus Orcadie & terrarum de Cathnes sibi tanquam uni sorori debitarum parteduntaxat & portione exceptis sororis sue antiquioris de terris de Cathnes sub denominatione & appellacione comitatus sive Comitis quam partim ut superius dictum est alienavit & vendidit ipse quondam Alexander de Ard regi Scocie prenominato Hujusq; rei testes sunt adhuc viventes fide digne qui ipsum matrem Henrici primi oculis viderunt labijsq; sunt locuticum ea communicantes ad plenum Cui successit ejus nepos Henricus Secundus filius primi Henrici, cui Henrico Secundo successit presens & superstes Dominus Wilielmus comes modernus Dominus le Sinclair.

Excellentissime Princeps ut premissimus in principio ita sine protestamur quod vestra serenissima regia sublimitas ac ipsius benignissima majestas Justa ingenij nostri modulam & sensuum capacitatem nos lingua naturam incultam nebulis ignorantie multipliciter obfuscata velut rudes indoctos a Rhetorica sciencia alienas in secunda facundia ignaros habere excusatos quamvis barbarico more non poetice locutionis, modo grosso loquamur, quia Insulares sumus a literarum sciencia penitus alieni.



eni, imo quod condecienti rethorice locucionis  
 stilo sive Scriptura non referimus vestre re-  
 gie-majestatis ea & nos submittimus cor-  
 rectioni. Sed verum est ut attestamur  
 quod more nostro barbarico omnia que su-  
 perius vestre majestati scribimus vera  
 sunt, quia ex antiquis libris, scripturis  
 autenticis, cronicis approbatis & relacioni-  
 bus fide dignorum antecessorum nostrorum,  
 ac infeodacionibus nostris ecclesiarum nostra-  
 rum ista extruximus & compilavimus. Et  
 si opus esset plura quam in presenti episto-  
 la vestre celsitudini lacius manifestare  
 sciremus ipsamq; in premissis informare,  
 sed quia longa solent sperni, hec pauca suffici-  
 unt pro presenti Et ut hec nostra episto-  
 la taliter qualiter compilata vestre regie  
 majestati ac dominis vestri consistorij &  
 palacij circa latera vestra existentibus  
 majorem fidem ac roboris firmitatem faciat  
 animos vestros ad plenum informet ac inter  
 archana vestrorum ra-  
 dicem emittat veritatis firmam & ceteros  
 Christi fideles sancta matris Ecclesie filios  
 instruat ad Deum & sacrosancta dei evan-  
 gelia per nos corporaliter tacta juramus  
 quod premissa modo quo super relata de-  
 ponimus ad Dei honorem vestreq; celsitudi-  
 nis, predecessoris mandatum & non alias  
 nec prece nec precio, odio, amore vel favore  
 vel

*vel sub spe cuiuscunq; muneris presentis vel futuri sed pro veritate duntaxat dicenda. In quorum omnium & singulorum fidem & testimonium premissorum sigilla Thome Episcopi, Canonorum & Capituli antedictorum, totiusq; populi & communitatis patrie nostre Orcadie quod dicitur sigillum commune & mei Henrici Randal legiferi in nostra publica & generali sessione non sine magna maturitate & plena digestionem presentibus sunt appensa apud Kirkwall mensis maij die quarto Anno Domini millesima quadringentesimo tertio.*

To this *William Sinclair* Earl of *Orkney*, succeeded his Son *Robert Sinclair*, Earl of *Orkney*; but he being, as I am inform'd, forefaulted for non compearance to the Parliament, the Earldom of *Orkney* and Lordship of *Zetland* was again annexed to the Crown; and so it continu'd till the Reign of Queen *Mary*.

At which time *James Hepburn*, Earl of *Bothwell*, was, by her, made Duke of *Orkney*, by that Dignity to make him the more worthy to be a Husband for her self; who were Marry'd by *Adam Bothwell* Bishop of *Orkney* in the Palace

place of *Holyrood-House*, after the manner of the Reformed Church, on the 15th of *May* 1567. He perceiving how much he would be envy'd by the Nobility for that Marriage, and for a suspicion they had that he was the Murderer of her former Husband, he caused to be built a strong Castle in *Westra* in *Orkney*, call'd the Castle of *Noutland*, to be a place of retreat in case a storm should fall. And so it came to pass; for being deserted by the Queen at *Carberry Hill* and pursued by the Lords of the Congregation, he made to Sea with two or three Ships which he had prepared before hand for that purpose and came to *Orkney*; but being deny'd entrance into the Castle of *Kirkwall* (the Castle of *Noutland* not being fully finished) by *Gilbert Balfaur* the Keeper of it, he betook himself again to Sea, playing the Pirate, and making Prey of all Ships that he could master and seize upon; till at last he was driven from this Country by *William Kirkaldie* of *Grange*, and so flying from this to *Zetland*, and from thence to *Norway*, he was there apprehended and conveyed to *Denmark*, where he was put  
into

into a vile Prison, in which, after the space of ten years, he made a base end, answerable to the wicked life he had liv'd.

After the death of *James Hepburn*, Duke of *Orkney*, the Lord *Robert Stuart*, natural Son to King *James* the Fifth, was made Earl of *Orkney* in *August Anno 1581*; and being before provided to the Abbacy of *Holyrood House*, he made an exchange of that with *Adam Bothwell* for the Bishoprick of *Orkney*, and so became sole Lord of the whole Country. He built or repaired the Palace of *Birsa*, the chief Residence of the Earls of *Orkney*, having this Inscription above the Gate : *Dominus Robertus Stuartus Filius Jacobi quinti Rex Scotorum hoc opus instruxit.* Which Inscription, together with the Motto he took above his Coat of Arms, *Sic fuit, est & erit*, I am inform'd did militate something against his Son when he was try'd for his Life. In his time King *James* the Sixth was marry'd to Queen *Anne* the King of *Denmark's* Sister; at which time there was a new Renunciation of the Right that the Kings of *Den-*

*Denmark* might pretend to these Isles of *Orkney* and *Zetland*.

To him succeeded his Son *Patrick Stuart* Earl of *Orkney*. He was a great Oppressor of the Country : *Spotswood*'s character of him is in these words.

" This Nobleman (says he) having un-  
" done his Estate by Riot and Prodi-  
" gality, did seek, by unlawful Shifts,  
" to repair the same; making unjust  
" Acts in his Courts, and exacting Pe-  
" nalties for the breach thereof; if any  
" Man was try'd to have concealed a-  
" ny thing that might infer a pecunia-  
" ry mulct, and bring profit to the Earl,  
" his Lands and Goods were declared  
" confiscated; or if any Person did sue  
" for justice before any other Judge than  
" his Deputies, his Goods were eschea-  
" ted; or if they went forth of the Isles  
" without his Licence, or his Deputies,  
" upon whatsoever occasion, they should  
" forefault their Moveables; and, which  
" of all his acts were most inhumane,  
" he ordain'd, That if any Man was  
" try'd to supply or give Relief unto  
" Ships, or any Vessels distressed by tem-  
" pest, the same should be punished in  
" his



” his Person, and fined at the Earl’s  
 ” Pleasure. So far *Spotswood*.

These Acts produced by the Complainers and confessed by the Earl himself, were by the King’s Privy Council discerned unlawful, and the practice thereof prohibited in all times.

These Oppressions moved King *James* the Sixth, that he might deliver these injur’d People from so great a Tyranny, to purchase Sir *John Arnot*’s Right, to whom the Earl had given the Mortgage of his Estate, and so he took the Country into his own hand, sending Sir *James Stuart* to it, whom he made Chamberlain and Sheriff of the Country, who came and took possession of the Castles of *Kirkwall* and *Birsá* in the King’s Name.

The Earl at this time being Prisoner in the Castle of *Dumbarton*, sent his natural Son *Robert Stuart* with an express Command to retake these Houses again; who accordingly did so. But the Earl of *Cathnes* being commissioned by the King to be Lieutenant in these bounds, with Order to recover these Castles and pacify the Country: Shortly after his coming, he took in the  
 Castle

Castle of *Kirkwall*, which he demolish-  
ed, and in it seized on the said *Robert*  
*Stuart*, with some of the Earl's Ser-  
vants, whom he sent to *Edinburgh*,  
where shortly after they were hang'd.  
And the next Year, being *February* the  
6th 1614, the Earl himself, for several  
treasonable Acts and Oppressions pro-  
ven against him (being brought from  
*Dumbarton* to *Edinburgh*) was there Be-  
headed. He was a Man of profuse  
spending, and the Builder of that beau-  
tiful Fabrick, which afterwards was  
appropriated to be the Manse of the Bi-  
shops of *Orkney*. The King by these  
means being fully possessed of this Coun-  
try, he made Sir *James Stuart* Lord  
*Ochiltrie* Chamberlain and Sheriff, as is  
said. After whom others succeeded to  
be Governors in it, till the Year 1647; at  
what time *William Douglass* Earl of *Mor-*  
*ton* got a Wadset or Morgage of this  
Country from King *Charles I.*

To him succeeded his Son *Robert Dou-*  
*glass* Earl of *Morton*, Anno 1649; in  
which Year the Marquis of *Montrose*  
came to this Country, from *Holland*,  
with several Commanders and some  
Companies of Foreign Soldiers; and ha-  
ving

ving staid some few Months in *Kirkwall*, he there raised some Forces, most of which were either killed or taken Prisoners at that unfortunate encounter of *Carbersdale*.

To him succeeded, in the possession of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, his Son *William Douglass* Earl of *Morton*. Anno 1664, or thereabouts, in the first Dutch Wars, there was a great Ship, call'd *The Carmelan of Amsterdam*, cast away at *Zetland*, in which Ship (as was said) were some Chests of Coin'd Gold, which were seiz'd on by some who acted for the Earl; whereupon the Lords of the Treasury call'd the Earl to an Accompt, and so redeemed the Morgage of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, and obtain'd a Decreet of Declarator against him; and in the Year 1669, these Countries of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, thus redeemed from the Earl of *Morton*, were (excepting the Bishops interest) re-annexed to the Crown, and erected into a Stewardry by Act of Parliament.

Thus *Orkney* hath been a Honourary Title several ways, to several: *Belus* and *Ganus* (as we have read) were Kings of *Orkney*, *Henry* and *William Sinclars* were

were stil'd Princes of *Orkney*, *Bothwel*, by Patent from Queen *Mary*, was made Duke of *Orkney*, and the Lords of this Country of the Sirname of *Sinclar* and *Stuart* were entituled Earls of *Orkney*, as were the Earls of *Morton* when they had possession of this Country, and at present the Right Honourable *George* Earl of *Orkney*, Brother to his Grace the Duke of *Hamilton*, has the honorary Title of this Country, but they have ever since the Year 1669, when these Countries were again adjoyn'd to the Crown, been governed by those they call *Stewards* of *Orkney*. The Kings Exchequer gives a Lease to any that gives highest for it at a Roup. The present Farmers and Taxmen have it for Eighteen hundred Pounds Sterling; so low by the oppression and changing of Taxmen has this Country fall'n, being reckon'd, in the Earl of *Morton*'s time, to near three thousand and five hundred Pounds; when the Taxmens Lease is out, which is commonly in three or five Years, the Lords of the Treasury Roup it of new, and he that bids most is Taxman and Steward for the Lease of Years he takes it for.

The Government of the *Steward* is in the King's bounds, the manner and procedure of his Jurisdiction is after the form of Sheriffship, the Title only differing. The Bishops part is governed by a Sheriff, both he and the Kings Steward have one and the same manner of punishing of Delinquents, and administration of Justice, and that according to the custom and practise of other Shires in the Kingdom; Both their seats of Justice is at *Kirkwal*.

Under the Sheriff and *Steward*, are some Judges of their Creation and Appointment called *Baliffs*. In every Parish and Isle there is one. Their Office is to oversee the manners of the Inhabitants, to hold Courts, and to decern in civil petty matters to the value of ten Pounds Scots, but if the matter be above that, it is referred to the Sheriff or Steward, or their Deputies under and subservient to these Bailiffs, are six or seven of the most honest and intelligent persons, within the Parish called *Lawrightmen*. These in their respective bounds, have the oversight of the People, in the fashion of Constables, and delate to the Bailiff such enormities



ties as occasionally fall out, which the Bailiffs punish according to the importance and circumstances of the Fault, and if it be above his limits or extent of his Power, he sends the delinquent to the seat of Justice, either to the Steward or Sheriff respective.

These *Lawrightmen* have a privilege inherent to their Office, by the custom of the Country, which is not usual elsewhere: and it is this, if there be at any time any suspicion of Theft, they take some of their Neighbours with them, under the silence of the night and make search for the Theft; (which is called *Ransalling*) they search every house they come to, and if the Theft be found, they seize upon him with whom it is found and bring him to the seat of Justice for Punishment.

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*An Essay concerning the Thule of  
the Ancients.*

**T**Here is no place oftner mentioned by the Ancients than *Thule*, and yet it is much controverted what place it was; some have attempted the discovery of it, but have gone wide of the marks the Ancients left concerning it; yet they seem all to agree that it was some place towards the North, and very many make it to be one of the British Isles, and since *Conradus Celtes* saith it is encompassed with the *Orkney Isles*. It will not be amiss to subjoyn to the description of *Orkney*, this Essay concerning it.

Some derive the name *Thule* from the *Arabick* word *Tule*, which signifies farr off, and as it were with allusion to this the Poets usually call it, *ultima Thule*, but I rather prefer the reason of the name given by the learned *Bochartus*, who makes the same to be *Phenician*, and affirmeth that it signifieth *Darkness* in that language.

*Geo.*

*Chanaan lib. 1. Cap. 40. Thule propriè Syris umbræ sunt, hinc translata significatione, Thule pro tenebris passim sumitur; itaq; Gezirat Thule erat insula tenebrarum, quod idem est ac tenebricosa, quod nomen insulæ ad extremum septentrionem sitæ quam congruat nemo non videt.*

Hence Tibullus panigyrico ad Messalam speaking of the frigid Zone hath this:

*Illic & densa tellus absconditur umbræ.*  
And these places of Homer Odyss. 1. vers. 25. Περὶ ξόρον ad caliginem; & lib. 3. vers. 1190 ἐπεὶ δὲ δίδμεν ὅπερ ξόρον neq; enim scimus ubi sit caligo, is by Strabo interpreted, nescimus ubi sit septentrio, Lib. 1. pag. 34. and lib. 10. pag. 454 and 455. And agreeing to this Statius lib. 3 ad Claudiam uxorem.

*Vel super Hesperia vada caligantia Thules,* and lib. 4 ad Marcellum.

— *Aut nigra littora Thules.*

And indeed this derivation of the word carries more reason than any other they give it, and is an evident proof that the ancients agreed in placing their *Thule* towards the North: we shall see next what Northern Country they pitched on for it.

The ancients seem most to agree that *Thule* was one of these Isles that are called British. *Strabo* one of the most ancient and the best of Geographers extant saith, *Pythias Massiliensis, circa Thulen Britannicarum insularum septentrionalissimam ultima ait esse*. Yet he himself maketh it nearer than *Pythias* did; *Ego autem illum septentrionalem finem multo propius meridiem versus existimo, qui enim hodie terras perlustrant ultra Hyberniam nihil possunt referre, quæ non longe versus septentrionem ante Britannicam jacet plane ferorum hominum domicilium & propter frigus male incolentium, ibi ergo finem constituendum censeo*.

*Catullus*, *Carmines ad Furium* seems to be of this mind in these Verses.

*Sive trans altæ  
Gradietur Alpes,  
Cæsaris visens  
Monumenta magni,  
Gallicum Rhenum  
Horribilesq; et  
Ultimosq; Britannos.*

And *Horace carm. lib. 1. Ode 35.*

*Serves iturum Cæsarem  
In ultimos orbis Britannos.*

And

And *Silius Italicus lib. 1* in these Verses,

*Cærus haud aliter cum demicat Incola  
Thules  
Agmina falcifero circumvenit acta covino.*

For it appears from *Cæsar's* Commentaries that the blewish Colour and the fighting out of the hooked Chariots were in use with the inhabitants in *Britain*. *Pliny* likewise seems to be of this opinion, for he treats of *Thule* in the same Chapter where he treats of the *British Isles*, and *Tacitus, vita Agricolaë* saith when the Roman Navy sailed about *Britain*, *despecta est & Thule*.

*Ireland* properly so called was probably the first of the *British Isles* that got the name *Thule*, as being the first the *Carthaginians* met with steering their course from *Cadiz* to the West. And hence it is we find *Statius, Sylva tertia ad Claudiam uxorem* calls *Thule, Hesperia*.

—*Et si gelidas irem mansurus ad Arctos,  
Vel super Hesperia vada caligantia Thules.*



And seemeth to be the same said by Aristotle to have been discovered by the Carthaginians, *lib. de mirabil. auscultat.* where he saith, *extra columnas Herculis aiunt in mari a Carthagenensibus insulam fertilem desertamq; inventam, ut quae tam sylvarum copia, quam fluminibus navigationi idoneis abundet, cum reliquis fructibus floreat vehementer, distans à continente plurimum Dierum itinere, &c.*

And Bochartus confirms this by what he observes that the ancient writer Antonius Diogenes, who wrote twenty four Books of the strange things related of Thule, not long after the time of Alexander the great, had his History from the Cypress Tables digged at Tyrus out of the Tombs of Mantima and Derce-lis, who had gone from Tyrus to Thule, and had staid some time there.

But though this be the first Thule discover'd by the Carthaginians, yet it is not that mention'd by the Roman writers, for they speak of the Thule in which the Romans were and made conquest of; but it is certain they were never in Ireland properly so called. That they were in Thule appears from these Verses in Statius *lib. 5. protreptico ad Crispinum.*

In

*In disce patrem quantusq; nigrantem  
Fluctibus occiduis fessog; Hiperione Thule  
Intrarit, mandata gerens.*

Now the Father of *Crispinus* to whom he writeth was *Bolanus*, the same *Vectius Bolanus* who was Governor of *Britain* under *Vitellius* (as *Tacitus* informs us) which is yet more clearly proved by the following Verses, of the same Poet.

*Quod si te magno tellus franata parente  
Accipiat.*

*Quanta Caledonios attollet gloria campos  
Cum tibi longævus referet trucidis incola  
terra,*

*Hic suetus dare Jura parens, hoc cespitem  
turmas*

*Affari nitidas, speculas, castellaq; longe  
Aspicias ille dedit, cinxitq; hæc mania fessa  
Belligeris; hæc dona Deis, hæc tela di-  
cavit.*

*Cernis adhuc titulos: hunc ipse vacanti-  
bus armis*

*Induit hunc Regi rapuit thoraca Britanno.*

The words *Caledonio* and *Trucidis Incola terra* do show that by *Thule*, is meant

meant the North part of *Britain* which was then possessed by the *Pights* designed by the name *Caledonios*, and the *Scots* designed by *Trucis incola terra*. The same Epithet *Claudian* gives to the *Scots* in these Verses,

*Venit & extremis legio pratenta Bri-  
tannis,  
Qua Scoto dat frana truci.*

And of this North part of *Britain*, that Verse of *Juvenal* is likewise to be understood.

*De conducendo loquitur jam Rhetore  
Thule.*

The best exposition of which is taken from *Tacitus, vita Agricola*. *Jam vero principum filios, liberalibus artibus erudire & ingenia Britannorum, studijs Gallorum anteferre, ut qui modo linguam Romanam abnuebant, eloquentiam concupiscerent.*

*Claudian* does yet more particularly give the name of *Thule* to the North part of *Britain*, while he speaks *Carm. de 3<sup>o</sup> Consul. Honorij*, of the great exploits done there by *Theodosius*, the Father of *Theodosius* the Emperor and  
Grand-

Grandfather of Arcadius and Honori-  
us.

*Facta tui numeravit avi quem Littus  
adusta*

*Horrescit libyæ; ratibusq; imperva Thule,  
Ille leves Mauros, nec falso nomine pi-  
etos*

*Edomuit, Scotumq; vago mucrone secutus,  
Fregit Hyperboreas remis audacibus undas  
Et geminis fulgens utroq; sub axe tro-  
pheis*

*Tithyos alterne refluas calcavit arenas.*

And in these lines

*Ille Caledonios posuit qui castra pruinis,  
Qui medio libyæ sub casside pertulit æstus  
Terribilis Mauro, debellatorq; Britanni  
Littoris, ac pariter Boreæ vastator &  
austri.*

*Quid rigor æternus cæli? quid sidera  
profunt?*

*Ignotumq; fratrum? Maduerunt Saxone  
fuso*

*Orcades, incaluit pectorum Sanguine Thule  
Scotorum cumulos flevit glacialis Ierne.*

Where

Where by placing the *Moors* and *Britains* as the remotest People then known, and condescending upon the *Scots* and *Pights*, as the Inhabitants of *Thule* and *Ierne*, he demonstrateth clearly that *Thule* is the North part of the Isle of *Britain* inhabited by the *Scots* and *Pights*, for this *Ierne* or as some read it *Hyberne*, can no ways be understood of *Ireland*, properly so called, first because *Ireland* can never deserve the Epithet *Glacialis*; since by the Testimony of the Irish writers, the Snow and Ice don't continue any time there: Secondly the *Romans* were never in *Ireland*, properly so called, while as it appears by the forementioned Verses, that *Theodosius* past our *Firths* of *Forth* and *Clide*, called by him *Hyperborea undæ*, and entered *Strathern* which to this day bears the name *Ierne*, in which *Roman* Medals are found, and the *Roman* Camps and *via militares* yet are extant, the Vestiges of their being there beyond all dispute, and therefore is so to be understood in the same Poets lines, upon *Stilico* employ'd in the *British* Wars.



*Islands of Orkney.* 157

*Me quoq; vicinis pereuntem gentibus in-*  
*quit*

*Munivit Stilico, totam cum Scotus Ier-*  
*nam*

*Movit, & infesto spumavit remige Thetis*  
*Illius effectum curis, ne bella timerem*  
*Scotica, nec Pictum tremere.*

Now *Thetis* in these Verses and the  
*undæ Hyperboreæ* in the Verses before  
mentioned cannot be understood of the  
Sea between Scotland and Ireland; for  
Ireland lyeth to the South of the Ro-  
man Province; and the Situation of  
the Scots and Pights Country is to the  
North of it: for it was separate by  
the two *Firths* of *Forth* and *Clide* from  
the Roman Province, which does clear-  
ly show it was to be understood of  
them, which is also imported by the  
words *Hyperboreas undas* and *Remis*,  
which cannot be understood of the Irish  
Sea which is to the South of the Roman  
Province, and is very tempestuous and  
cannot so well be past by Oars as the  
*Firths* of *Forth* and *Clide*; but the same  
Poet has put this without all doubt in  
these Verses,

*Venit*

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*Venit & extremis legio prætenta Britan-  
nis*

*Quæ Scoto dat fræna truci, ferroq; notatas  
Prelegit exanimis Pictò moriente Figuras.*

For were it to be understood of the Irish Sea, then the Wall and the *Prætentura* should have been placed upon the Scottish shore that was over against Ireland, whereas they were placed over against that Country which is called *Strathern* now, and is the true *Ierne*, not only mentioned by *Claudian*, but likewise by *Juvenal*, in these Verses,

— *Arma quid ultra*

*Littora Juverna promovimus & modo cap-  
tas*

*Orcades, & minima contentos nocte Bri-  
tannos.*

Where he directs us to the Situation of the Country of the Scots and Pights, *Juverna* being the Country of the Scots which had been over-run in part by *Julius Agricola* Governour of Britain under *Domitian* the Emperour, who first entered the *Orcades* and as *Tacitus* observeth, *Despecta est Thule*, they saw the North part of the Coun-  
try

try beyond *Ierne* the Country of the *Pights* which lies to the North of the *Firth of Forth* and upon the German Sea, and is designed in these words, *minima contentos nocte Britannos*; all which particularly relate to *Ross* and *Cathnes*. And the Inhabitants of this *Ju-berna* and *Thule* are the very same the Panegyrist *Eumenius* speaks of in his Oration to *Constantine* the great; where he saith that the Nation of *Britain* in the time of *Cesar*, was *rudis & soli Britanni Pictis modo, & Hibernis assueti hostibus Seminudis*: They had not been in use of War, but with these half naked people of the *British Soil*, the *Pights* and the *Irish*, who for their loose and short Garments may to this day be called half naked.

They were called *Hyberni* as being at first a Colony from *Ireland*, and as possessing that tract of the Isle of *Britain* which is called by the ancient writers *Ierne glacialis* and *Ierne* simply and by the writers of the middle age *Hybernia* as may be seen in the *Roman Martyrology*, *Martyrol. Roman. Sexto decem. Sanctus Beanus Episcopus Abredonia in Hybernia*. Now never any  
Irish

Irish writer yet could say that in *Ireland* properly so called there ever was a Town or Bishops See called *Aberdeen* or a River called *Don*.

And that this part of *Britain* then possessed by the *Scots*, was called *Hybernia*, is clear from the testimony of venerable *Bede Ecclesiast. hist. lib. 4. cap. 26.* who names it *Hybernia* in the beginning of the Chapter and in the next page calls the same Country *Scotia*.

'Tis certain that as the Wall betwixt *Tyne* and *Solway Firth*, called *Murus Picticus*, was built to exclude the *Pights*, so was that betwixt *Edinburgh* and *Dumbarton Firth* to exclude the *Scots* highlanders, and was designed first by *Agricola*, as appears from *Tacitus vita Agricole* where he saith, *nam Glotta & Bodotria diversi maris aestu per immensum reiecti, angusto terrarum spatio dirimuntur, quod tum praesidiis firmabatur: atque omnis propior sinus tenebatur, summotis velut in aliam insulam hostibus:* That is, for *Clide* and *Forth* two arms of two contrary Seas shooting mightily into the Land, were only divided asunder by a narrow Partition of Ground,  
which

which passage was guarded and fortified then with Garrisons and Castles, so that the *Romans* were absolute Lords of all on this side having cast out the enemies as it were into another Island; and indeed as *Tacitus* remarks, *inventus in ipsa Britannia terminus*; so the *Romans* made this indeed the outmost limit of their province, and gave the name *Britain* to that part of the Island within the Roman Wall which was built on this narrow neck of Ground between the two *Firths*.

And hence it is that the venerable *Bede* calleth those people that dwell beyond the Wall, *Transmarinae gentes*, but explaineth himself thus *lib. 1. cap. 12. Transmarinas autem dicimus has gentes, non quod extra Britanniam sunt posita, sed quia à parte Britonum erant remota, duobus sinibus maris interjacentibus, quorum unus à orientali maria alter à occidentali, Britannia terras longe lateq; irrupit*: And a little before this he tells who these *Transmarinae gentes* were, *viz. Scotorum à Circio*, that is, the *Scots* from the Northwest, & *Pictorum ab Aquilone*, and the *Picts* from the North: Which *Firths* relate to that part of the Isle without the Roman Province; but *Ire-*  
M *land*



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*land* properly so called cannot be said to lie to the North-West of the Roman Province.

Now we will endeavour to shew that what *Juvenal* saith in the Verse,

—— *Arma quod ultra*  
*Littora Juverna promovimus, &c.*

is to be meant of that part, which is now called *Strathern* and the rest of *Perthshire* and the West Highlands, the Country of the *Scots*, designed by *Bede*, à *Circio*, which are truly so situated in respect to the Roman Province ; and this we will make out from what we meet with in *Tacitus, vita Agricola*, for first he saith, *Tertius expeditionum annus novas gentes aperuit, vastatis usq; ad Taum (æstuario nomen est) nationibus.* The third years expedition discover'd people they were not before acquainted with, having over-run all those that were on this side *Tay*, which he describes to be a *Firth*. It appears by this they were other people than these he had to do with before, because they are called *novæ gentes*. In the next place he says the fourth Summer was spent

spent in taking possession of what they had over-run, and he observes in that expedition the small *Isthmus*, or neck of Land that keeps *Clyde* and *Forth* from meeting, and this was so secured by Garrisons, *Summotis velut in aliam insulam hostibus*, that the enemy by these means were removed as it were into another Isle. Now if we will compare what we observ'd out of *Bede* of the *Gentes Transmarinae* beyond these two *Firths*, we will see clearly that these *novæ gentes* were the *Scots* and *Pights*; the *Scots* in the Country towards the North-West, and the *Pights* in the Country North-East: but this is yet more confirmed by the account, that is given by *Tacitus* of the Action in the sixth Summer of *Agricola's* Government; *Ampla civitate trans Bodotriam sita*, being inform'd of a great people, that dwelt beyond *Forth*; and *civitate* being in the singular makes it to be understood of the people that lie nearest, that is the *Scots*, and *quia motus universarum ultra gentium & infesta hostili exercitu itinera timebantur*, because he apprehended that all the people beyond *Forth* would rise against him, and for

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that he feared that in his passage he might be attacked by the Enemies Army, he tryed their Havens with his Fleet, where by the by there is a pretty description of the nature and quality of the Country in these words *ac modo Sylvarum & montium profunda, modo tempestatum ac fluctuum adversa, hinc terra & hostis, hinc auctus oceanus militari Faciantia comparentur*: Which very well agreeth to the Woody and Mountainous Country mixed with Valleys that lieth to the North of this Firth and to the roughness of these Firths when agitated with winds, and a little below this he saith *ad manus & arma conversi Caledoniam incolentes populi*, where he gives an account of a bloody Battle they had with the Romans where *Agricola* was put to it to make use of all his force and art.

What is meant by *Caledonia*, he has told us where he speaks of the figure of *Britain*, that what the Ancients said of it, agreed to that part upon this side of *Caledonia*; *sed immensum & enorme spatium procurentium extremo jam littore terrarum, velut in cuneum tenuatur*, by which he makes *Caledonia* to

contain all the rest of *Brittain*, to the North of these *Firths*. And that they were different people that were possessors of it, is clear by the words *Caledoniam incolentes populi*. By the *Caledonij* simply the *Romans* understood the *Pights*, that inhabited the countrey that lay upon the German Sea ; but as he mentions several people here , so he gives you afterwards the *Horesti*, that is the *Highlanders*, the name of old given to the ancient *Scots*, and kept by their descendants even to this day. And after that he had given an account of the great preparations, he relates the battel he fought with these people the last summer of his Government, where he tells us that he marched up the *Gram-pian* hills, where the Enemy were encamped on, and the way of their Fighting , and the description he makes *Galgacus* their Commander in chief give of them, may clearly see that they were different People, and no other than those that *Claudian* and other Authors call *Scots* and *Pights*.

But because it is controverted by some late writers, whether they were Natives of *Britain*, or *Irishes* who from

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Ireland properly so called then invaded Britain, we shall bring some arguments *Tacitus* furnishes us with, to prove that they were Natives of the British Soil; for in the account even in this last expedition, he says, *Nam Britanni nihil fracti pugnae prioris eventu, & ultionem aut servitium expectantes, tandemq; docti commune periculum concordia propulsandum legationibus & fœderibus omnium civitatum vires excitaverant jamq; supra triginta millia armatorum aspiciebantur, & adhuc affluebat omnis Juventus, & quibus cruda & viridis senectus, clari bello, ac sua quisque decora gestantes.* Where it is observable that although he call'd them before *novæ gentes*, yet here he calls them *Britanni*, which was the name the *Romani* gave to all that inhabited this Island, but it was never given by any of the *Roman* Authors to the inhabitants of Ireland, the words *legationibus & fœderibus omnium civitatum vires excitaverant* shows how the *Scots* and *Picts* were united and composed one Army, for the *Britons* spoken of here are the inhabitants of *Caledonia*, and so it is that *Tacitus* says *Galgacus* designed them in these words *Ostendamus, quos sibi Caledonia*



*donia viros seposuerit.* We find likewise in our Author, several marks of distinction, first they are *Gentes*, now the Criticks have observ'd that *Gens* is a more general name, and so *Universim Britanni Gens Britannorum appellantur*; *Natio* is a particular people a part comprehended under the general name *Gens*: so the *Caledonij*, the *Silures*, and the rest mentioned by *Ptolemee* in his Map of *Britain* are *nationes Britannicae*. Our Author also speaks of *Civitates* which are not *Towns*, but *Gentes*, people, and the *Clans* that composed them, which lived under the command of their chiefs: so *Galgacus* is described here, *inter plures duces virtute & genere præstans*. And these same names we find in *Ptolemee*, are certainly the Ancient names of the *Clans*; but *Ptolemee* has been deficient, in that he has not set down the general names, the people designed themselves by, which in this part of the Island was *Albanich* and *Peaghts*, that is *Albanenses* and *Picti*, which two names prove them to be the ancient and first inhabitants of *Britain*, whom *Cæsar* designs in these words, *Interior pars ab ijs incolitur qui*

*se natos in insula dicunt*, which Galgacus owns here speaking to his Army, he calls them *Nobilissimi totius Britanniae, eoq; in ipsis penetralibus siti*. It is worth the observing that that part of the Island which lay to the North of *Hum-ber*, was by the confession of the learnedst of the *British* Historians (as *princeus defen. hist. Britan. pag. 60. Ranulph. Higden. polychronic. lib. 1. Luddus Fragment.*) called *Albania*, and a part of the country still carries the name of *Broad Albine*.

And to clear that, the same people he designed *Caledoniam incolentes populi*, were the same called *novæ gentes*, appears from this that follows, that when because of the summers being much spent, *spargi bellum nequibat, in fines Hosteorum exercitum deducit*, and a little after, *ipse peditem atq; equites lento itinere, quo novarum gentium animi ipsa transitus mora terrentur, in Hybernis locavit*; where they are called by the same name *novæ gentes*, for *Tacitus* here relates, that because the Summer was spent, and that the War could not be extended against the *Pights* and *Scots* both, he marched with his to the bor-

borders of the Scots whom he calls *Horesti*, that is *opesai*, *Montani*, *Highlanders*, and indeed I have seen Roman Medals that were found in *Argileshire*, and a great many have been found in several parts of *Pearthshire*, besides a great many Roman camps are still to be seen there. And in the Sixth year of *Agricola's* Government, some of these camps had been attacked, by some of those that dwelt in *Caledonia*, for he saith, *Castella adorti metum ut provocantes addiderant*, and a little after it is said of these same people, *Universi nonam legionem ut maxime invalidam nocte aggressi inter somnum ac trepidationem, cæsis vigilijs irrupere jamq; in ipsis castris pugnabant*. This camp seems to be the very same which is yet extant near to *Airdoch*, and the reason I take it to have been one of *Agricola's* camps is, for that our Author hath observed before, *Adnotabant periti non alium ducem opportunitates locorum sapientius legisse, nullum ab Agricola positum castellum aut vi hostium expugnatum, aut pactione aut fuga desertum*; for if we will consider this same Camp, we will find it has all the advantages, *Vigetius de re militari*  
lib.

*lib. 1. cap. 22.* saith a Camp should have *Castella munienda sunt loco tuto, ubi & lignorum, & pabuli, & aquae suppetit copia; & si diutius commorandum sit, loci salubritas eligenda est, cavendum autem ne mons sit vicinus altior, qui ab adversarijs captus possit officere; considerandumq; ne torrentibus inundari consueverit campus.* This is upon a heath in a slooping ground; it hath the water of *Kneck* running close by it, whose banks are so high, that it could not overflow, and there is wood near to it, and more has been about it, there is no Mountain nor considerable height so near, as that they could from thence annoy it. The same *Vegetius* adds, *hæc castella sæpe structa instar oppidorum & in finibus imperij, & ubi perpetuæ stationes & pratenturæ contra hostem;* and the largeness of this Camp and its Situation upon the Frontiers, makes this to be a *Pratentura*.

The *Prætorium*, or the Generals quarter is a large square, about a hundred paces every way, around it are five or six *Aggeres* or *Dykes*, and as many *Valla* or *Ditches*, the deepness of a mans height, there are Ports to the four quarters.

ters of the World, and to the East there are several larger Squares, with their circumvallations continued for a good deal of way. To the West is the bank of the water of *Kneck*, and five or six miles to the North-East of this by the water of *Earn* near to *Inch Pasery* is a lesser camp, the *Castrum exploratorum*, the camp for the advance guard, and a little to the Eastward of this, beginneth the Roman *via militaris*, called by the common people *The street-way*, this in some places is raised from the ground almost a man's height, and is so broad that Coaches may pass by other with ease upon it, and this runneth towards the River of *Tay*, the length of which *Agricola's* devastations reached, as our Author *Tacitus* tell us. *Tertius expeditionum annus novas gentes aperuit, vastatis usq; ad Taum (estuario nomen est) nationibus*: And the *Grampian* hills towards which he marched, when he fought the last Battle in the last year of his Government, *ad montem Grampium pervenit, quem jam hostes insiderant*, are but a few miles distant from these Camps.

There



There was a stone with this inscription DIS MANIBUS AMMONIUS DAMIONIS COH I HISPANORUM STIPENDIORUM XXVII HEREDES F. C. lately taken up out of the *Prætorium* of the *Prætentura*, below which are some Caves, out of which some pieces of a Shield were taken up, and several Medals, have been taken up thereabouts. I have seen one in Silver of *Antoninus pius* found there. The people that live thereabouts, report there was a large Roman Medal of Gold found there, and great quantity of Silver ones have been found near to the water of *Earn*, amongst which I have seen some of *Domitian*, some of *Trajan* and some of *Marcus Aurelius*. And whereas it is said, that this man for whom this Sepulchral inscription was made, was *cohortis primæ Hispanorum*, if we will look to the *notitia Imperij Romani* we will find amongst the Troops placed *Secundum lineam vallæ*, this *cohors prima Hispanorum* was one. And it would seem the Poet *Claudian* had this very same *prætentura* in his view in these Verses,

*Venit*

*Venit & extremis legio pratenta Britannis,  
Quæ Scoto dat fræna truci, &c.*

And so without all question the *Glacialis Ierne* is means of this very Country, which had now the name of *Strathiern*, where all these vestiges of the *Roman* exploits are found; and these called *Scoti* by *Claudian*, are the very same people *Eumenius* calleth *Hyberni soli Britannii* the Irish of the British Soil: and *Tacitus* calleth *Horesti*, Highland men or *Braemen*, the name some of their descendants yet bear, while on the other side all Authors both ancient and modern agree, that the *Romans* were never in *Ireland* properly so called, and there are no *Roman* Camps, *via militares*, nor *Roman* Coins to be found there.

It remaineth now that we show where the Country of the *Pights* was, who in the Verse last cited are joyned with the *Scots* and were not far from this same *Prætentura*, since the Poet immediately subjoyns to

—— *Quæ Scoto dat fræna truci*

—— *Ferroq; notatas,*

*Perlegit exanimis pïeto moriente figuras.*

That

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That this *Thule* was a part of *Britain* the Roman writers seem to be very clear, especially *Silius Italicus lib. 17.* in these Verses,

*Cerulus haud aliter cum dimicat incola  
Thules  
Agmina falcifero circumvenit acta covino.*

For *Silius* here seemeth to have in his view what *Cæsar* in his *Commentaries* hath delivered of the *Britons* fighting in *Essedis*, and *Pomponius Mela lib. 3. cap. 6.* where he speaks of the *Britons* saith *Dimicant non equitatu modo, aut pedite, verum & bigis & curribus Gallice armati covinos vocant, quorum falcatis axibus utuntur.* And our Author *Tacitus* tells us, that in the Battle fought with our Countrymen at the *Grampian hills*, *media covinarius & eques strepitu ac discursu complebat*; and a little below that, *Covinarij peditum se prælio miscere, & quanquam recentem terrorem intulerant, densis tamen hostium agminibus & inequalibus locis hærebant.* These *Covinarij* are called by *Cæsar*, *Essedarij*, so I believe no Body will doubt but that *Silius* the Poet by *Cerulus incola Thules*

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*Thules* meant the Britons. We also find an appellation of the same nature given to one of the Tribes of the Scots, by *Seneca in ludo*, in these Verses,

*Ille Britannos  
Ultra noti  
Littora ponti  
Et ceruleos  
Scoto Brigantas  
Dare Romuleis  
Colla Catenis  
Fussit.*

For so it is read by *Joseph Scaliger* and by *Salmasius, exercitat. Plini. in Solinum pag. 189.* upon these words, *Gelones Agathirsi collimitantur cerulo picti: & sane Pictos sive Agathirfos, haud aliter interpretare liceat, quam aliquo colore fucatos, sic picti Scotobrigantes Seneca, & Picti, populi Britannia ab eadem ratione dicti.* And it would seem by these Verses,

*Et ceruleos  
Scoto Brigantas  
Dare Romuleis  
Colla catenis  
Fussit.*

That

That *Seneca* who was Contemporary with *Claudius*, had in his View the Victory which *Ostorius* under *Claudius* the Emperour Governour of *Britain* obtained over *Caratacus* King of *Scots*, whose History may be seen elegantly done by *Tacitus* in the 12th Book of his *Annals* where he shews us that *Caratacus* being brought before *Claudius* in Chains, he made a brave discourse to him, and amongst other things tells him, *neq; dedignatus esses, claris majoribus ortum, pluribus gentibus imperantem fœdere pacis accipere*; and without doubt besides the *Silures* mentioned there by *Tacitus*, these *Scoto-brigantes* were of the number of these *gentes* he commanded. *Claudius* was so well pleased with his manly behaviour (saith *Tacitus*) *Cæsar veniam ipsiq; & conjugi & fratribus tribuit, atq; illi vinculis exsoluti, &c.*

But to make it appear, which part of *Britain* the *Thule* mention'd by the *Romans* was, it will be fit to see to which part of *Britain* the Epithets attributed by the Authors to *Thule* do agree best. First then it was a remote part, *Ultima Thule*, as this is the remotest part of *Britain*, and as *Tacitus* bring-



eth in *Galgacus* expressing it, *nos terrarum ac libertatis extremos recessus; ipse ac sinus famæ in hunc diem defendit.* Then *Thule* was towards the North, and so is this Country in respect of the Roman Province: And then thirdly it might deserve the name *Thule*, because of its obscure and dark aspect: it being then all overgrown with Woods. Fourthly the length of the day is attribute to *Thule*; and upon this Account it must be the Country to the North and to the East of *Ierne* by these Verses of *Juvenal*,

— *Arma quid ultra*  
*Littora promovimus Juverna & modo cap-*  
*tas*  
*Orcades, & minima contentos nocte Bri-*  
*tannos.*

For it is of the North and East parts of Britain the Panegyrist saith, *Panegyri Constantino Constantij filio Constantij dicti; O! fortunata & nunc omnibus beatior terris Britannia.* And a little below, *Certe quod propter vitam diliguntur longissimi dies, & nullæ sine aliqua luce noctes, dum illa littorum extrema planities non attollit umbras, noctisq; metam cæli & siderum*

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*rum transit aspectus, ut sol ipse qui nobis videtur occidere, ibi appareat praterire,* this same is applyed to the Northmost part of Britain by Tacitus, where he saith of it, *Dierum spatia ultra nostri orbis mensuram, nox & clara & extrema Britannia parte brevis ut finem atq; initium lucis exiguo discrimine internoscas, quod si nubes non officiant, aspiti per noctem solis fulgorem nec occidere & exsurgere, sed transire affirmant.* And Leshy in his History observeth that in Ross and Cathnes the nights for two Months are so clear that one may read distinctly. The like we have before observ'd of Orkney.

Another property of Thule given by Tacitus is, that about it *Mare pigrum & grave remigantibus perhibent,* which agreeth indeed to the Sea upon the North-East part of Scotland; but not for the reason Tacitus gives, for want of Winds, but because of the contrary Tides, which drive several ways, and stop not only Boats with Oars, but Ships under sail that if any where it may be there said of the Sea,

*Nunc spumis candentibus astra laceffit  
Et nunc Tartareis subsidet in ima Bara-  
thris.*

But *Thule* is most expressly describ'd to be this very same Country we treat of by *Conradus Celtes*, *itinere Baltico*,

—*Orcadibus qua cincta suis Tyle & glaci-  
alis Insula.*

The same Epithet *Claudian* gives to *Ierne* where he calleth it *Glaciales Ierne*, and this *Thule* he makes to be encompassed *suis Orcadibus*, which Isles lie over-against it; and a little after he gives the like Epithet to *mare pigrum*:

*Et jam sub septem spectant vaga rostra  
Triones  
Qua Tyle est rigidis insula cincta vadis.*

And afterwards he makes the *Orcades* to lie over-against this *Thule*, and seems to have in his view the Rocks and Weels in *Pightland Firth* in these Lines,

*Est locus Arctoo qua se Germania tractu,  
Claudit, & in rigidis Tyli ubi surgit a-  
quis,*

*Quam juxta infames scopuli & petrosa vo-  
rago*

*Asperat undisomis saxa pudenda vadis,  
Orcades has memorant dictas a nomine  
Græco.*

By all which I think it appeareth sufficiently that the North-East part of Scotland, which *Severus* the Emperor and *Theodosius* the Great infested with their Armies, and in which as *Boethius* observes *Roman Medals* were found, is undoubtedly the *Thule* mention'd by the Roman writers, and which if we will believe the learned *Angrimus Ionas*, *Specimen Island. Hist.* was meant by *Ptolemæe*, where he saith, *ubi nec omittendum; quod parallelo xxi per Thulen ducto ab ipso Ptolemæo, latitudo respondeat 55 gr. & 36.* So that our Country in these ancient times past under the name of *Hybernia* and *Thule*, and the *Hyberni* and *Picti Incolæ Thules*, are the same people who were afterwards called  
Scots.

It seems indeed the name *Scot* at first was only proper to some tribes of those people who called themselves *Albanich*, such as the *Scoto Brigantes* mentioned by *Seneca*, and the *Scottodeni* in *Ptolemee*, which by the corruption of the copies is now read *Ottodeni*; but they it seems were never called *Scots* generally, nor their countrey *Scotia*, till after *Keneth* the Second, King of *Scotland*, who subdued the *Pights* and incorporated them into one nation with our Ancestors. Yet *Wernerus Ralwingius*, *fasciculo temp. saith, edente Lino papa, Scotica gens oritur ex Pictis & Hybernis in Albania, quæ est pars Angliæ*; which confirms very much what we have been proving all along, but makes the name to have been used generally sooner than it appeareth to us from our Historians.

I shall only add one remark more, and that is, that we need not have recourse, for the rise of the name *Scot*, to the fabulous account of the Monks, who will needs have it from one *Scota*, *Pharaoh's* daughter married to *Gathalus*; since without that strain, if it be granted that the Country was  
once



once call'd *Thule*, which in the *Phœnician* language signifies darkness ; we have a very clear reason for the name *Scotia*, which signifieth the same in the Greek tongue, and it is very well known that it was usual with the Greeks (who next to the *Phœnicians* were the Famousst Navigators) not only to retain the *Phœnician* name of the place, but likewise to give one in their own Language of the same import : And since the learned *Brochartus* has very ingeniously deduced the Greek name of the whole Island *Βελοννι* from *Barat anac* and *Bratanack* in the *Phœnician* tongue, which signifies a *Land of Tinn*, which the Greeks not only inflected to their own termination, but likewise call'd the British Isles *Κασσιόπιδες* that is *Lands of Tinn*, which is the signification of the *Phœnician* and Greek names ; we make take the same liberty to derive the Greek name *Scotia* from the *Phœnician Thule*.

F I N I S.





